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Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin makes a point to Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Ehud Barak (to his right) as OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Yitzhak Mordechai (far left) and other officers look on yesterday, during an IDF exercise on the Golan Heights. (Ofer Lefler/IDF Spokesman)

Rabin: Direct talks with Syria 'best way' to achieve peace

DAVID RUDGE and DAVID MAKOVSKY

THE time has come for Syria to realize that the "best way to negotiate peace with Israel" is by holding direct talks, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin declared yesterday.

Negotiations through US mediation is not the best way to advance the peace talks, but for the time being it remains the only route, said Rabin.

Meanwhile, Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said yesterday that Secretary of State Warren Christopher must engage in shuttle diplomacy between Jerusalem and Damascus or else there is no hope for peace with Syria.

Rabin noted that the differences in the Israeli and Syrian positions remain large, and it would be difficult to make much progress without more flexibility on Syria's part.

Nevertheless he remained optimistic that the talks would advance, saying he believed Christopher would visit the region soon, "if not this month, then next month."

On Monday, Christopher predicted progress on Israel-Syria peace negotiations before the end of the summer even though a lack of movement has forced him to delay a trip to the region, which was expected this week.

Rabin spoke to reporters during a visit to the Golan Heights to view a large-scale military exercise.

He stressed that there was no connection between the IDF and the peace process, and that the army had to be ready at all times to fulfill its mission of defending the State if necessary.

He was accompanied during the visit by Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Ehud Barak and OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Yitzhak Mordechai, as well as senior IDF officers. After receiving a briefing on the IDF's state of readiness on the Golan Heights and the north in general, Rabin answered reporters' questions.

"The negotiations with the Syrians are being conducted, unfortunately, in a way that is not the best, but which today is the only

possibility - through US mediation," Rabin said.

"The significance of the US mediations is that the Americans are passing on Israel's positions to Syria and Syria's stance to Israel. The gaps [in the positions] are large, and what's missing is the direct contact at the appropriate levels."

Rabin noted that in any negotiations there are "ups and downs," but there is no need to lose patience or lose sight of Israel's main objective of reaching a peace agreement with Syria while ensuring Israel's security.

Answering questions in English about the deadlock in the negotiations with Syria, Rabin said: "The time has come for Syria to start to realize that the best way to negotiate peace with Israel is to sit face-to-face, on a higher level than was done until now, and talk in a serious way of how to achieve peace between the two countries."

Rabin said Israel was willing to continue conducting negotiations through visits of the US secretary of state in the hope that they would help build a basis for direct talks.

"I can't see how a peace agreement can be reached without, at a certain stage, holding meetings at higher levels than there have been until today," he said.

Regarding comments made in Washington by Jordan's King Hussein over his willingness to publicly meet the Israeli leadership, Rabin said he was prepared to meet the king at any time and any place.

Rabin said he was hopeful that the bilateral talks with Jordan would resume next month somewhere in the region.

Speaking to American reporters yesterday on the eve of a visit to the US, Beilin said intensive US diplomacy does not guarantee success, but unless it occurs, there is no hope for the Syrian track.

"I think that what's needed - and I think everyone understands it now - is a very intensive involvement in shuttling between Damascus and Jerusalem," he said.

While admitting he is not objective, Beilin said he believed the

Yi'ud seen split over joining coalition

DAN IZENBERG

THE Yi'ud faction summoned its 11-person secretariat to a late night meeting in Jerusalem yesterday to decide whether or not to accept Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's invitation to join the coalition.

The unexpected meeting was convened after faction leader Gonen Segev and Alex Goldfarb failed to convince Esther Salmovitz to go along with their recommendation to negotiate with the Labor Party.

The three huddled in Salmovitz's room in the Knesset for three hours in the afternoon, but failed to reach a unanimous decision. In fact, it was not certain that Salmovitz would go

along with the party if the secretariat backed Segev and Goldfarb.

Salmovitz has repeatedly made it clear that she belongs to the "national camp" and disagrees with government policy.

Settlement leaders, including Uri Ariel, secretary-general of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, conferred with Salmovitz earlier in the day to persuade her to remain firm in her opposition. Ariel

waited outside Salmovitz's office during the afternoon meeting.

Labor has reportedly offered Segev the energy portfolio and Goldfarb the post of deputy housing minister.

Earlier yesterday, Segev sent to Rabin a list of Yi'ud's 10 conditions for joining the government. Among Yi'ud's principles are the opposition to the establishment of a Palestinian state, preserving Israeli Jerusalem as Israel's capital under Israeli sovereignty, preserving a continuous land connection between the settlements, and holding a referendum on any Golan concessions.

IAF hits Hizbullah targets again

DAVID RUDGE

IAF warplanes struck at Hizbullah targets in the Jab'el Safi region north of the security zone last night for the fifth time in just four days.

Reports from Lebanon said jets flew two sorties, firing several missiles at Hizbullah positions although apparently without causing any casualties.

The IDF Spokesman said the pilots had reported direct hits on the targets and that all the aircraft returned safely to their bases.

Earlier yesterday, a teenage girl was reported to have been wounded in Nabatiya from shelling by IDF and South Lebanese Army gunners during further clashes in and north of the security zone.

Reports from Lebanon said several shells crashed into Nabatiya which was crowded with shoppers, causing schools to close early and sending residents scurrying for shelter.

The reports said IDF and SLA gunners also shelled suspected Hizbullah targets in the area.

The shelling followed an attack earlier in the morning on a SLA position in the Mansouria area, in the central sector of the zone.

Gunmen fired several mortar rounds at the post, without inflicting any casualties or damage. IDF and SLA gunners returned fire.

Radio Beirut also reported ex-

tensive flights by IAF warplanes and helicopters over various parts of south Lebanon during daylight yesterday, as tension in the region remained high following Monday's ambush of an IDF convoy in the zone by Hizbullah gunmen.

An IDF soldier First Sgt. Noam Simha, 21, of Kibbutz Rosh Hanikra, was killed in the ambush and three other soldiers were wounded. The attack occurred as the convoy was making its way to IDF positions on the Beaufort Castle.

MKS call for annexing Ma'aleh Adumim to J'lem

DAN IZENBERG

MKS Yehoshua Matza and Emanuel Zissman yesterday submitted a bill calling for the annexation to Jerusalem of Ma'aleh Adumim and Givat Ze'ev and the roads linking them to the capital.

Zissman (Labor) indicated that he supported such a move despite government policy to oppose in principle any legislation tying its hands in the peace negotiations.

Matza (Likud) said the annexation of Ma'aleh Adumim and Givat Ze'ev would put an end to Palestinian hopes of regaining control of eastern Jerusalem and making it the capital of a Palestinian state.

"If we don't distance the Palestinian neighborhoods of Jerusalem from the autonomy, they will become the capital of Palestine instead of a quarter in unified Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty," warned Matza.

He added that the Palestinian population was currently growing

faster than the Jewish population in the city and its environs, and that there was currently more housing construction in the Palestinian sector than the Jewish.

Matza singled out heavy Palestinian construction in A-Ram on the city's northern boundary, and A-Zo'em to the east.

Construction in A-Zo'em was chocking the Jerusalem-Ma'aleh Adumim highway, he added.

The bill calls for the annexation to the city of the roads leading to Givat Ze'ev and Ma'aleh Adumim plus 150 meters on each side.

Matza estimated that the bill would add 20,000-30,000 dunams to the city's current area of 110,000 dunams.

He said the mayors of Jerusalem and Ma'aleh Adumim and the head of the Givat Ze'ev local council supported the legislation. Two of three ministers with whom he had consulted also supported the bill, said Matza.

Tibi labeled off-limits as go-between with PLO

DAVID MAKOVSKY

ISRAELI officials are no longer authorized to speak to eastern Jerusalem gynecologist Ahmed Tibi as a go-between with the PLO since he is an Israeli citizen. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said yesterday in a joint statement.

The communiqué said the decision was made based on the legal finding of Foreign Ministry legal adviser Joel Singer.

However, it remains unclear if the decision was driven by purely legal considerations or reflected convenient political realities: with the first phase of the Cairo agreement having been completed, there will now be official Palestinian Authority representatives nearby in Gaza and Jericho.

Foreign Ministry officials insist Singer issued his finding in October, after Tibi participated in a Cairo meeting between Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. Subsequently, Jacques Neriah, who was then Rabin's diplomatic

adviser, refused to meet Arafat during a trip to Tunis unless Tibi was excluded from the session.

Tibi denied that he is a member of the PLO, although Arafat named him a special adviser last year for Israeli affairs.

"I am a Palestinian-Israeli citizen," Tibi said in reaction to the news. "I am not an official representative nor a member of the PLO. I have never been. The basis of this legal finding that I am an official representative of the PLO is mistaken. My activity in the peace process was aimed at bridging differences between two sides and historical reconciliation between the two people. I did in the past, and I will do it in the future."

Tibi has many friends in the Israeli political establishment, most notably Peres, Incoming Histadrut Secretary-General Haim Ramon, Environment Minister Yossi Sarid and Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin.

Court allows Trans-Israel Highway work to continue despite lack of environmental study

EVLYN GORDON and JOSE ROSENFELD

THE High Court of Justice yesterday gave the state 60 days to explain why it has not ordered a complete environmental impact study for the planned Trans-Israel Highway.

At the same time, it refused the request of the petitioners - a non-profit organization called Man, Nature and Law and some of its members - for an interim injunction stopping all work on the highway until the court makes a final ruling on the case. However, it did not rule out the possibility of such an injunction at a later date.

"If you see the tractors going onto the road to start paving, then you can apply to us [for an injunction]," said Justice Eliahu Mazza, who was hearing the case together with Mishael Chesbin and Zvi Tal. "But right now, it isn't relevant."

The petitioners argued that a general, environmental impact study, rather than just local studies, was mandated by the Planning and Building Code. But even if wasn't, they argued, it was unreasonable for the state not to perform one on such a major project.

"[The highway] will have an extremely significant impact on the environment," the petition stated. "In effect, it is the most important environmental-ecological issue on Israel's public agenda for the beginning of the 21st century."

In particular, the petitioners asked to examine the impact of the road in comparison to possible alternatives, such as building a railroad or widening existing roads instead.

Yehuda Cohen, director-general of the Trans-Israel Highway Corporation, disagreed with the petition's interpretation of the building code. The law, he said, requires only local environmental impact studies, in particularly sensitive areas, and those were done.

"No one even knows what a general study means," he said. "There is no such definition."

However, the court saw enough merit in the petition to require the state to give a more detailed response, and therefore issued the show-cause order.

Meanwhile, the cabinet will meet today to decide the compensation levels the government will pay for land expropriated for the planned Trans-Israel Highway.

According to the Trans-Israel Highway Corporation, the government will need to take over 18,000 dunams of land in order to build the main portion of Road No. 6, which will extend 90 km.

Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tsuri will propose to pay affected landowners the future value of the land expropriated, as well as for any financial burden the highway will cause them.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat strongly opposes Tsuri's proposal, but supports the establishment of a committee to find solutions and set adequate compensation to special cases of landowners which will suffer unusual damage.

Justice Minister David Liba'i supports offering 100% compensation for the actual value of the land at the time of expropriation.

Affected farmers are demanding that the government set a compensation package before going ahead with construction of the road. Otherwise, they are threatening to block the highway. The farmers are requesting a minimum of 100% compensation.

Haredi youths riot last night in capital

SOME 100 haredi youths ignored calls by their religious leaders and rioted in Jerusalem last night for the second night in a row to protest excavations in Migdal Ha'emek. Several dozen youths threw stones and bottles at passing cars and police, and set fire to trash bins in Kikar Shabbat. Earlier, haredi leaders agreed to police demands to call on their community to halt the violent demonstrations. See stories, Page 3

Uncle suspected in savage beating of 2-year-old girl

RAINE MARCUS

A TWO-YEAR-OLD girl was fighting for her life in Assaf Harofeh Hospital's intensive care unit last night after she was beaten unconscious Saturday allegedly by her uncle.

The 27-year-old Rishon LeZion man suspected of administering the beating will appear in Rehovot Magistrates Court for a remand hearing this morning. Known to police as a petty criminal and drug addict, he lives with his sister, the child's mother.

The girl was taken to Assaf Harofeh Hospital's emergency ward Saturday night by Magen David Adom personnel suffering from bruises and injuries all over her body. The suspect himself appar-

ently alerted the ambulance when the child lost consciousness.

However, police said yesterday that the child had also been hospitalized for bruises two weeks ago, but was released after treatment.

The mother told doctors then that her daughter had fallen. This time, however, authorities suspected foul play and alerted police and social workers.

The child's mother, who is unemployed, is separated from her husband and lives in the apartment with the suspect and her two young sons.

Under questioning, the mother said her child had probably fallen, but stressed she was not home when the ambulance was called.

She denied beating her child, said Superintendent Yifrah Dubovny.

"It is not logical that my brother could do such a thing, either," the woman told police. "He takes care of my child."

She was released after social workers and investigators ruled she was not involved in the suspected assault.

But Dr. Yitzhak Kadman, chairman of the National Council for the Child, said that by law parents are obliged to prevent violent attacks or abuse against their children.

"Even if the mother did not actually beat her daughter, it is still her moral and legal responsibility

to protect her child, and to prevent others from harming or abusing her," said Kadman. "Children of such a tender age cannot protect themselves and cannot speak."

Kadman said he hopes police will treat the incident seriously and will investigate thoroughly.

"The police do not always act accordingly in such cases," he said.

Yesterday he wrote a letter to State Attorney Dorit Beinisch asking her to appeal the lenient sentence of a father imprisoned for four months for repeatedly beating his two children.

"In this case, the children are fortunately still alive," said

Kadman.

A year ago, he added, a two-week-old baby died from severe head injuries, but police have not yet completed their investigation because they are awaiting a pathologist's report. Just two days ago, said Kadman, the Health Ministry published their findings which state the baby died from "unnatural causes."

"It is strange," said Kadman, "that a year after the baby's death, police have not yet finished their investigation."

The number of reports on violence against children is constantly rising, said Dov Yisraeli, vice-chairman of Defense of Children International.

First Moroccan Jewish delegation arrives

A DELEGATION from the Moroccan Jewish community arrived last night together with the world leadership of Keren Hayesod, the first time that a delegation from an Arab country will attend a world conference of Jewish leaders in Israel.

They came with Chairman Shlomo Hillel, who headed a delegation, together with Julia Koschitzky, chairman of the Keren Hayesod Board of Trustees, that spent the past five days in Morocco meeting government officials and Jewish community members.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will open the annual world conference of Keren Hayesod tonight at the Hyatt Hotel in Jerusalem.



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ACRI: GSS refusing travel permits to areas' residents who won't collaborate

THE General Security Service is increasingly withholding travel permits from residents of the territories who refuse to cooperate with Israeli authorities, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) said in its annual report yesterday.

"ACRI has been particularly concerned by a growing number of complaints that the General Security Service has conditioned the granting of permits on agreement by the resident to collaborate," the organization wrote in its section on the territories.

Elihu Abram, ACRI's coordinator for the territories, gave the example of a man, now middle-aged, who had been trying to get permission to visit Jordan since he finished high school, but was denied it without any reasons being given.

After ACRI wrote to the GSS in Jenin to ask for their reasons, the service held another meeting

with the applicant, who then submitted an affidavit to ACRI regarding what happened there.

"He was told: If you're willing to cooperate, you'll get the permit tomorrow. But if not, forget it, even if you have all the lawyers in the world representing you," Abram said.

In this case, Abram said, the State Attorney's Office got the man a permit after ACRI threatened to petition the High Court of Justice on the matter. However, he said, efforts to get people permits to enter Israel have not met with as much luck, and petitions to the High Court are a poor remedy, since it is very hard to prove that the GSS is really imposing such conditions.

"But our impression, from the complaints we've gotten, is that the phenomenon has gotten worse," he said, hypothesizing that the closure of the territories has made people much more de-

EVELYN GORDON

pendent on the permits.

At yesterday's Jerusalem press conference marking the issuing of the report, ACRI also came out strongly in favor of the government's obligation to protect collaborators from revenge by the PLO in the wake of the autonomy agreement.

"[Helping people you've used] seems to me to be a basic humanitarian principle," said ACRI chairman Prof. Ruth Gavison.

In her speech, Gavison stressed that civil rights must apply to everyone. This is why, she said, the organization has protested the recent administrative detentions of Kach activists, despite the fact that the move has been unpopular with some of ACRI's traditional supporters on the left. Some have termed ACRI's position "collaborating

with the forces of darkness," she said.

On the other hand, she added, the public outcry against the administrative detentions — compared to the silence in the face of much more serious measures taken against Arabs — sharpens the impression of a double standard for Jews and Arabs.

"We have to ask ourselves why we have been applying this double standard for so many years," she said.

With regard to the overall human rights situation in Israel, Gavison stressed that despite the unique problems created by control of the territories, the security threat, and the non-separation of church and state, Israel has managed to maintain a respectable place on the human rights front.

"In every society there are human rights problems [such as po-

lice brutality or issues of patients' rights]," she said. "Israel isn't unique... Israel certainly occupies a respectable place in the middle [on the human rights scale], and... slowly, she is moving upward."

Gavison, Abram, director-general Amos Gil and legal director Dana Briskman also surveyed the organization's activities over the past year. These included its "Red Light" program to investigate complaints of police brutality; High Court victories which enabled Conservative and Reform Jews to serve on local religious councils and movie theaters to open on Shabbat; legislative efforts, such as the introduction of a Freedom of Information bill into the Knesset; and efforts on the administrative level, such as successfully persuading the state to publish civil service tenders in Arabic as well as Hebrew.

Peres: Syrians will allow last 300 Jews to leave soon

BATSHEVA TSUR

FOREIGN Minister Shimon Peres said last night that the last 300 Jews who want to leave Syria will be able to do so in the near future. Informed sources said there has been a steady stream of Jews coming out of Damascus in the last few months.

Speaking at a rally called by the Organization of Syrian and Lebanese Jews in Israel, Peres said that the president of Syria made a mistake by not coming to Israel together with the late Egyptian president, Anwar Sadat.

"Had Hafez Assad come here 17 years ago, Syria could have received what Egypt received, and there would have been peace today," Peres said. "But we cannot

live in the past and we must now be forward-looking. There is no alternative but to make peace."

Peres said that unless the state of the Middle East prepared themselves for the 21st century, they would face collapse like the former Soviet Union. "The sources of wealth are not physical but intellectual, and in this Israel can be the leader," he said.

David Silberman, the organization's secretary, called on all the bodies dealing with Syrian Jews to unite. "There is unity in strength and we need strength in the future we're going to face," he said.

The rally was held in conjunction with the Histadrut.

Religious camp still split over reaction to Goldstein

HERB KEINON

THE proper reaction to Baruch Goldstein and the Hebron massacre is still an issue in at least part of the religious Zionist camp, even as the Shamgar Commission of Inquiry into the massacre is due to release its findings on Sunday.

Meimad, in the first edition of a magazine it has just launched, published a letter from Kiryat Arba Chief Rabbi Dov Lior in which he called Goldstein a martyr. Lior's letter was in response to a letter all Hebron rabbis received from Rabbi Aharon Lichtenstein, dean of the Har Etzion yeshiva in Alon Shvut, in which Lior was criticized for eulogizing Goldstein.

"I did indeed eulogize the deceased Baruch Goldstein, may the Lord avenge his blood, who was lynched by Gentiles in the Machpelah Cave," Lior wrote. "A Jew who is killed because he is a Jew should certainly be called a martyr, just as we call Holocaust [victims] martyrs, without searching into how they lived their lives beforehand. Even more so here, where we knew [Goldstein] well as a God-fearing man who did good deeds, loved people and saved lives."

"I am surprised at great Torah scholars, lovers of Israel, who are quick in passing judgment without knowing the background and circumstances that forced him to act... People died in front of him, and he heard the yell 'Kill the Jews' in the cave on Purim... All this together, I assume, led him to this extreme act. I am not taking a stand, but rather giving the benefit

of the doubt, as we are commanded to do."

In his letter to the Hesder rabbis, Lichtenstein wrote: "I want to protest strongly against what happened last night [the eulogy at Goldstein's funeral] in full view of Israel and the world. A man, no matter what his previous merits, left this world while carrying out a horrible, terrible massacre. And as such, profaned God's name, trampled on the honor of Torah and mitzvot, stained the image of the community of Israel and brought about a danger to settlements in Judea, Samaria and Gaza."

The magazine also published a reply that Lichtenstein received from Avraham Kurtzweil and Shmuel Hever, the heads of the Hesder yeshiva in Karmel Shomron, who took him to task for supporting the peace process that they said has given legitimacy "to the arch-terrorist who has spilled, like water, the blood of Jews and others."

In response to Lior's remarks, Absorption Minister Yair Tzaban said: "By turning the despicable murderer Baruch Goldstein into a martyr, seemingly like the martyrs of the Holocaust, because he was killed by non-Jews, Lior reveals himself to be an idol-worshiper who lacks the slightest bit of Jewish or other morality. Rabbi Lior, who has given post-facto backing to this terrible massacre and the person who carried it out, should not be permitted to continue to hold public office."

Israeli-Arab educators want more Palestinian studies

JACOB DALLAL

ISRAELI Arab educators and academics say they want to see the school curriculum in their sector give pupils a stronger Arab and Palestinian identity.

"We want to form an Arab, Palestinian individual in the State of Israel," said Dr. Ahmed Habiballah, chairman of a committee on education for local councils. Habiballah was speaking yesterday in Nazareth at a conference on education among Israeli Arabs.

Critics like Habiballah say that the present course of studies in

Arab schools reflects a long-standing government fear of Israeli Arabs having too strong a Moslem or Arab identity. For example, said Dr. Majid Al-Haj of Haifa University, the number of hours an Israeli Arab pupil studied the Bible in school was eight times that allotted for the study of Islam.

Al-Haj also called for forging a stronger Palestinian identity among Israeli Arab youths. "Modern Palestinian history should be made a mandatory course for matriculation," Al-Haj wrote in a paper just published by the Floersheimer Institute, which sponsored yesterday's conference.

Participants at the conference also expressed frustration at the gap in the level of education among Jews and Arabs. "Our child looks at the Jewish child next door: we have to feel that we are equal," said Habiballah.



Golan Heights farmers in a tractor convoy continue to make their way toward Jerusalem yesterday. (Itan Omsandir/Israel Sun)

Soldier killed in ambush buried on his kibbutz

DAVID RUDGE

"If there was somebody who really wanted peace, it was Noam. He was a real idealist. He believed that peace was the thing," said Benji Loberant, at Kibbutz Rosh Hanikra yesterday, a few hours before the funeral of his friend First Sgt. Noam Simha, killed in Monday's Hizbullah ambush of an IDF convoy in the security zone.

"Noam was a great person. He loved life, laughing around, having fun and playing soccer. He had no enemies and everybody liked him," said Loberant who grew up with Simha on the kibbutz.

"I'm sure if he had been in charge of the peace talks, agreements would have been reached long ago. Without any connection to his attitude towards peace, his nickname which he had had since second grade was 'peace,' he was that kind of person."

"He didn't like being in Lebanon and he didn't particularly like the army, but he wanted to serve his country and he became a fighter. Now all that's left is the memory of him and his smile."

Simha is survived by his parents, two sisters and a brother.

US aid officials to be based in Jerusalem

HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON

THE US intends to base in Jerusalem its officials dealing with financial aid to the self-rule areas, but that does not constitute a change in American policy towards the city, a senior administration official said Monday.

The US team from the Agency for International Development will not operate a free-standing office, but be attached to the American consulate in Jerusalem "only for administering aid to Jericho," the official said.

Other officials would be posted to the Tel Aviv embassy to handle

Gaza aid, he added.

The remarks came against the background of reported US plans to establish an office in Jerusalem of AID, which is a division of the State Department handling American foreign aid programs.

The US pledged \$500 million to the Palestinian Authority during an international donors conference here last October.

The US might also set up a "front office" in Jericho to handle the work more directly, the official stated.

Israeli Arab couple claim they were refused housing on racial grounds

DAN IZENBERG

THE Justice Ministry is investigating a complaint by an Israeli Arab couple whose request for housing in a new urban community in northern Israel was allegedly rejected on racial grounds, Housing Minister Binjamin Ben-Eliezer said yesterday.

The issue was raised in the Knesset by MK Hashem Mahameed (Hadash). Tawfik and Helena Jabarin applied for housing in Katzir, an urban community being built on the Wadi Ara road.

Tawfik, a lawyer, and Helena, a social worker, currently living in Umm el-Fahm, submitted an ap-

plication, according to Mahameed. They were told they met the criteria for acceptance and were sent to appear before a committee, empowered to approve or reject candidates.

According to Mahameed, the committee vetoed the application after a committee member pointed out that a provision of the Israel Lands Authority charter says land belonging to the ILA cannot be sold to non-Jews.

Ben-Eliezer said he expected the State Attorney's Office to issue an opinion on the case within two weeks.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man, 77, gets 3 years for drug possession

A 77-year-old Beersheba man was sentenced yesterday to three years in jail for possession of drugs beyond the amount deemed reasonable for personal use. Shalom Cohen was convicted following his arrest six months ago for possession of more than 33 grams of heroin, which he said was for his own use. (Itan)

Two killed in car accident

Two brothers from eastern Jerusalem were killed early yesterday morning when their car hit a divider and overturned on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway. Nadav Hemed, 25, and his brother Jamal, 27, were killed. Hussan Abu Diab, 30, was seriously injured and taken to Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem. (Itan)

Accident victim dies

A 24-year-old Kibbutz Shoval resident, who suffered serious injuries in a traffic accident in the north last week, died Monday night and was buried at the kibbutz yesterday. Shauli Kaduri, who was serving as an IDF career officer, was promoted to the rank of captain upon his death. He had been unconscious at Rambam Hospital in Haifa since the accident. Amir Rozenblit

Namir improving

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir's condition is continuing to improve, following the neurosurgery she underwent last week in Switzerland. Ministry sources said Namir's chances of regaining sight in her left eye are good. It is not clear when Namir will be returning to Israel.

Youth tumbles into Ramon Crater

A high-school student sustained light injuries after falling off his bicycle and tumbling six meters into the Ramon Crater yesterday. The 16-year-old was touring the area with two other youths who alerted a rescue team with their walkie-talkie when the accident occurred. (Itan)

Shahal: Crime worse in Europe than here

Someone is murdered every 43 hours in the country, while a car theft occurs every 22 minutes, Police Minister Moshe Shahal told a group of Rehovot pupils yesterday. Shahal added that a sexual crime is reported to police every five hours and that nearly 350,000 criminal files are opened every year in Israel. (Itan)

Shamgar Commission to release findings

The Shamgar Commission of Inquiry into the Hebron massacre will publish its conclusions on Sunday, the Justice Ministry announced yesterday. However, the report is expected to be confined to an analysis of the operational blunders which made the massacre possible, and recommendations for how to avoid such failures in the future.

Racists use computers for antisemitism

Antisemitic and racist material is being spread on sophisticated computer networks in Western Europe and the United States, the Institute of Jewish Affairs said yesterday.

Meanwhile, in Russia and Ukraine, minority groups are under increasing threat from racist organizations which have proliferated since the collapse of the Soviet Union, said the institute, the research arm of the World Jewish Congress, in its annual Antisemitism World Report. (Itan)

Winning numbers and cards

In last night's weekly Lotto drawing, the winning numbers were 5, 12, 27, 28, 32, 36 and the additional number was 19. In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the king of spades, eight of hearts, 10 of diamonds and seven of clubs. (Itan)

Weizman to open Israel-Diaspora Dialogue

BATSHEVA TSUR

PRESIDENT Ezer Weizman will open his Dialogue on Israel-Diaspora relations this morning at Beit Hanassi.

More than 200 institutional and intellectual leaders, more than half of them from abroad, will participate in the two-day meeting. Meanwhile, MK Ariel Weinstein (Likud) has sent a letter to the president protesting that no opposition leaders will address the forum.

"I am most surprised to see how Beit Hanassi, the symbol of the unity of the Jewish people, has impaired that very unity," Weinstein wrote yesterday.

"If you do not wish the dialogue to be written into the collective memory of the public as a one-sided conference, you would do well to find a way to correct the injustice and invite the opposition leaders as well... It would be appropriate that the voice of hundreds of thousands of people who chose the opposition leader [be heard] in the presidential residence."

But the head of the President's Bureau said that Likud Party leader Binyamin Netanyahu and MK Dan Meridor, among others, had been invited to attend but declined.

"To our regret, the two, who were invited at the outset, were unable to participate. This is a shame," bureau head Arye Shumer said in reply. "The conference is not political," he added, "and has no party overtones. It reflects the president's concern for the future of the Jewish people in the world and the substance of the ties between Israel and the various communities."

"Beit Hanassi has always been, and remains, above political affiliation and this is apparent to the Jews of Israel and those abroad," he added.

Brain-dead baby dies before court intervenes

A BABY declared brain dead whose parents opposed efforts to keep him alive died yesterday morning a short time before Ramat Hashikma Hospital could appeal to the Tel Aviv District Court for permission to perform an emergency operation.

The baby, born prematurely on June 9, 1993, weighed 780 grams at birth. He was put in the intensive care unit at the Children's Medical Center in Beilinson Hospital, where he was declared brain dead. His parents petitioned the Tel Aviv District Court seeking to forbid doctors from operating to drain fluids from his brain. A judge rejected their request, but stated that any further operations would require the permission of the court and the parents.

The baby was operated on and transferred to a rehabilitation facility in Haifa, where his condition worsened Sunday. He was transferred to Rambam Hospital, but died before a petition for permission for another operation could be made. (Itan)

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SOCIAL & PERSONAL

The weekly meeting of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street.

We regret to announce the passing on June 20, 1994 of our beloved

JOSEPH INBAR

He bequeathed his body to science.

Deeply mourned by his wife, children, brother and sisters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In deep sorrow, we announce the death of

Dr. ZE'EV SEKELES (Vili)

The funeral will take place at the Yarkon Cemetery, today, Wednesday, June 22, 1994 (13 Tammuz 5754) at 11:30 a.m.

Wife: Miriam (Nanny)

Grandchildren: Ruthy, Gabby, Varda and Yerucham Galt and Shuki, Amir and Joanna Ork and Raviv, Chen and Eran

Great-grandchildren: Ben, Nitzan, Shir and Omer

Shiva at the Sekeles residence, 70 Rehov Herzl, Ramat Gan (Entrance Bet).

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1. *Chlorophyll a* and *Chlorophyll b* were determined by the method of Arar and Collins (1971) using a Shimadzu 1010 spectrophotometer. The concentration of chlorophyll was expressed in $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ of the sample.

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Like N. Korea, like Iran From Marxism to capitalism, with Pan-Arabism mixed in

ANALYSIS

LOUIS RENE BERES and YOASH TSIDON-CHATTO

If you liked North Korea, you'll love Iran. Left unchallenged for another year or two by the international community, the revolutionary Islamic regime in Tehran will be able to threaten the very survival of its enemies — especially Israel.

As with North Korea today, this regime will confront the world with a nuclear fait accompli, and once again the world community will ask, "How did it come to this?"

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty cannot prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. In the case of Iraq, the treaty actually provided cover for a treacherous NPT member state to develop weapons of mass destruction without external interference.

Had it not been for the Gulf War victory, Baghdad would almost certainly have fulfilled its nuclear objectives, and Israel would have faced Scud missiles tipped with atomic warheads.

Viewed from Jerusalem, the developing nuclearization of Iran is particularly ominous. While the Clinton administration is pressuring it to join the NPT next year as a non-nuclear member, Israel is being told by Washington that Iran's nuclear program is effectively beyond the reach of America's power.

Already, US impotence vis-a-vis North Korea's nuclear option has been increasingly evident.

In recent testimony to the House armed services committee, Walter Slocombe, principal deputy undersecretary for policy, and Robert Gallucci, State Department assistant secretary, used the terms "denuclearized" and "non-nuclear" interchangeably.

But there is an important difference here.

In Korea's case, if the US aim is "denuclearization" of the peninsula, then US goals have to be to roll back an existing (and intolerable) state of affairs. If, however, the US goal is to sustain the peninsula as "non-nuclear," then we may confront a manageable situation.

If the former, which now surely seems more likely, America's task will be overwhelming and, quite plausibly, beyond its national capabilities. If it's a roll-back, will the US then sit back and allow similarly intolerable conditions to develop in Iran?

Such a development would be hastened by any obvious US weakness in Korea and could burst open the nuclear proliferation floodgates.

Americans traditionally learn so little from what happens right before their eyes. In the not-too-distant future, this unfortunate blindness could bring extraordinary harm to its allies, not only in South Korea but also in the Middle East — especially in Israel.

Any essential Israeli reprisal to an attack could begin a series of nuclear exchanges on top of two-

thirds of the world's oil reserves.

WHAT EXACTLY should be done about Iran?

First, the US must act decisively on North Korea. It must also realize that international law is not a suicide pact. Faced with Tehran's expressed intentions that are specifically genocidal — "we shall root out and destroy the Jewish cancer in our midst" — Israel is under no obligation to wait patiently for its own annihilation.

Like any state in our decentralized system of international security, Israel has every right to consider timely and lawful preemptive action against appropriate Iranian military targets — known in jurisprudence as the right of anticipatory self-defense.

The Iraqi nuclear reality, uncovered only after the 1991 Gulf War, confirmed the strategic and legal correctness of Israel's 1981 destruction of the French-built reactor at Osirak.

But the Osirak raid caused far lower levels of destruction than would necessarily be generated by future preemptive strikes against hardened and widely scattered bases of dangerous Middle Eastern states.

Optimally, therefore, such strikes should be led by the US when necessary. It alone may have the political and military clout to prevent regional nuclearization.

But in view of the extraordinary and incontestable belligerence of Iran towards Israel, Washington would have to act far more quickly in this matter than Israel did with Iraq.

Should Washington reject direct superpower intervention in support of anticipatory self-defense, it should certainly stand behind Israel if it were obliged to protect itself by individual preemptive action.

Such an obligation, made public, could contribute significantly to joint US-Israel nuclear deterrence. It would lower the probability of nuclear war and possibly even reverse the intolerable course of Iran's unconventional weapons development.

It would, of course, be far better for Washington to take a more direct role in support of anticipatory self-defense in the Middle East. Acting in close tactical collaboration with Israel, and recognizing common concerns and past misjudgments on Iraq and North Korea, the Clinton administration could garner real influence and power.

The result would be a law-enforcing and life-saving operation, one that would express genuine commitment to non-proliferation and preempt later concerns about Iranian nuclearization.

Louis Rene Beres is a professor of political science at Purdue University, Indiana, and author of *Security or Armageddon: Israel's Nuclear Strategy*.

Yoash Tsidon-Chatto is a former Tsomet MK and Air Force colonel. He writes and lectures on defense and security.

TAREK Heggy was once a Marxist, like many educated, middle-class Egyptians. Now he is the Middle East regional chairman of Shell Royal Dutch International, a Dutch-British oil empire whose annual turnover exceeds \$135 billion.

Heggy is the only Egyptian on Shell's board. In moving from Marxism, through Pan-Arabism to the ultimate apex of capitalism, Heggy has remained a concerned, involved and insightful Egyptian.

He divides his time between analyzing and offering solutions for Egypt's seemingly intractable socio-economic problems and running Shell's regional operations.

Heggy has come to view the solution to Egypt's problems, and those of most countries in the region, as inextricably tied to economic development and the rise of a skilled, science-oriented middle class.

"We always had intellectuals and thinkers," said the softly spoken Heggy in his 12th-floor suite at the Daniel Hotel in Herzliya. What we need are intellectual doers, a new breed of chief executives.

Heggy means people like himself — and he does not deny being an elitist.

Western educated, Heggy has written 11 books, starting with a critique of Marxism ("I have nothing of Marxism left in me"), to predicting the inevitable decomposition of the Soviet bloc ("It was bound to implode").

In the early 1980s he began to write extensively on Egypt's problems.

A new collection of his articles from 1985-1993, *Egypt's Contemporary Problems: Causes and Remedies*, is on the desk of President Ezer Weizman, whom Heggy met last week on his first trip here.

"I came here to understand the country, and see for myself the achievements," Heggy says. "I found Israel to be very interesting, and it strengthened my belief in late president Anwar Sadat's peace policy."

"I have met people here, such as Prof. Sasson Somech and Prof. Shimon Shamir, who are not only experts on Arab culture, literature and politics, but are intellectuals who realize the need for Israel to try and understand the Arab world."

THE POST: One of Israel's traditional interpretations of the Arab-Israeli conflict has been that the Arab world collectively rejects Israel's right to exist for political,



Heggy: If Egypt fails, you Israelis, and the region as a whole, will have to contend with a second Iran on your side.

cultural, and theological reasons. Was that ever the case, and has it changed?

Heggy: To an extent, it was the case during the period of Pan-Arabism, but it also had to do with Israel's reluctance to understand the Arab world and show sensitivity to it.

Israel never realized that it was part of a region, and that resulted in intellectual arrogance. Today, the Arab world is increasingly accepting Sadat's vision of integrating Israel into the region.

There is a theory, expounded among others by Faisal Ajami, that Israel's mere existence constituted a challenge to the Arab world, in that it exposed the Arabs' problems with modernity, technology, social progress and democracy. In short, it presented a complex intellectual challenge that frustrated the Arab world.

I am familiar with that argument, but again, it should be analyzed in the context of Israel's refusal to deal with the region. Now, you have flexed your economic muscles beyond your size, and you imperatively need Arab markets. You need to buy gas in Qatar and you need to export in the region.

Are Islam and democracy mutually exclusive, as Bernard Lewis contends?

"Islam and democracy are not mutually exclusive. This concept is colonial and is based on a no-mad interpretation and approach to the Arab world. Lewis refers to medieval Islamic history, to Islamic theological indoctrination."

Was Christianity in the 12th century democratic? Was Germany, the country of Kant, Goethe and Schiller, civilized in dealing with Jews? Of course there is a chance for democracy in the Arab world, and it is very important that it develops. It requires a solid middle class, which requires economic development.

However, as exemplified recently in the case of Algeria, we should be careful not to provide the tools and means to destroy democracy once we install its processes and institutions.

You have written titles such as "Religious Extremism in Egypt," "The Tragedy of Education and Culture in Egypt," and "What is to be Done?" — echoing Lenin's famous pamphlet. What is to be done about Egypt's enormous

problems? Are they beyond solution, as several Western economists believe?

Egypt is the most important country in the region. The Arab world has always followed Egypt's lead, whether it was Pan-Arabism or socialism. If Egypt fails, you Israelis, and the region as a whole, will have to contend with a second Iran on your side.

But that is unlikely. Our problems are solvable. We aspire to upgrade Egypt to South Korea's economic level, without repeating its — and others' — mistakes.

It will take a decade to accomplish this goal. For that we need a new breed of executives, intellectual doers who will combine vision with practical and modern managerial skills. Egyptians are a flexible, solid and tolerant people. It can be done, but the investment in infrastructure, education and training of technological and managerial cadres is a prerequisite.

How serious is the fundamentalist threat to Egypt?

Islamic fundamentalism is a threat, but not an existential one. The fundamentalists in Egypt lack the cadres and especially lack the support of the middle class.

Without both, they stand no chance. The Arabian peninsula offered Islam tribal support, but Egypt historically gave Islam its tolerance.

You are an executive of a huge multinational corporation. In the Middle East — a region still divided along national, perhaps nationalistic, ethnic and religious lines — how important are multinationals to the region's economic development?

Absolutely necessary. You need the likes of Shell, Exxon or Toshiba. They bring funds, create jobs, stimulate growth and generate income in the countries where they operate.

Most importantly, they provide the transfer of skills and knowledge. Governments, unfortunately, are incapable of creating an attractive enough environment.

This is also something the Palestinians must understand. I have met representatives here of all three types of Palestinians. The 1948 refugees, the 1967 refugees and those in the diaspora.

They all think that the West and the Arab world needs to immediately give them money. That will go down the drain, unless the funds are allocated to those capable of planning and managing it, to the elites.

The writer is defense correspondent of The Jerusalem Post.

Washington, too, suspects Arafat

THOMAS W. LIPPMAN
WASHINGTON

THE government of Israel is not the only one learning how to live with the PLO after years of hostility. In a much lower-key manner, Washington is going through a similar adjustment.

Many members of Congress, like Cold War veterans still mistrustful of Moscow, are suspicious of Chairman Yasser Arafat and his disavowal of terrorism.

US laws banning government contact with the PLO remain on the books. Congress authorized President Bill Clinton to suspend those laws in the interests of promoting the Israel-PLO peace agreement, but required the administration to submit periodic reports on the PLO's compliance with the agreement.

When the first such report went to Capitol Hill earlier this month, some members criticized it for being overly favorable to Arafat, who they said has been less than sincere in his condemnation of terrorist attacks against Israelis.

House and Senate members separately have established monitoring committees to make sure the State Department is sufficiently vigilant in monitoring PLO activities.

Meanwhile, the Clinton administration is negotiating with the PLO over the opening of a mission here — but the Palestinians who staff it will not have diplomatic immunity because they will not officially represent a country.

At the same time, according to State Department officials, the administration is contemplating sending representatives from the US Agency for International Development to Jericho — the de facto capital of the Palestinian "entity."

They might have diplomatic status if they are accredited to the US Consulate in Jerusalem. Reports saying the Clinton administration had decided on the Jerusalem option brought a furious response from Seymour Reich, president of

the American Zionist Movement. "In a letter to Clinton, Reich called the reports 'astonishing and depressing.'"

"If the purpose is to administer American assistance to the Palestinians in Jericho, the natural logical site for such an office is Jericho," his letter said. "Why East Jerusalem? The only purpose of establishing such an office would be to buttress Palestinian claims to East Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state."

The nations — including the US — that have joined to pledge tens of millions of dollars in economic aid to the areas of Jericho and Gaza under Palestinian self-government "want to have some personnel on the ground monitoring the use of the money," an Israeli official said.

The agreement is that those people are not going to have diplomatic status unless they are part of their embassies or consulates in Israel proper, the official said — an arrangement that would in effect have foreign diplomats working in the Palestinian self-rule areas under Israeli protection.

The State Department's first "Compliance Report" on the extent to which the PLO has honored its obligations under the Declaration of Principles said it is "the administration's judgment that the PLO is abiding by the commitments" it undertook.

It added, however, that "the PLO should do more to condemn violence in a timely, authoritative and unambiguous fashion." And Arafat, it said, should be more careful about statements that damage his credibility as a peace-maker, such as his assertion that he would continue to wage jihad to capture Jerusalem.

MEMBERS OF THE House Peace Accord Monitoring Group complained in a June 10 letter to Sec-

retary of State Warren Christopher that the compliance report failed to hold the PLO to "a high enough standard" and that it "repeatedly seeks to limit the responsibility of Arafat and the PLO to meet their commitments."

Last week a bipartisan group of 15 senators announced the formation of their own compliance monitoring group. One of the founders, Sen. Richard Shelby, said the State Department has tended to "paper over problems," and the establishment of peace "has got to be a two-way street and the PLO has to know that."

Rita Hauser, a prominent New York lawyer and longtime advocate of Israeli-PLO accommodation, argues it is time for Congress and the State Department to stop temporizing about the status of the PLO and extend full recognition as the precursor of an inevitable state.

"Why don't we acknowledge that the PLO has come back into the world community?" she said. "It's not for us to judge if the PLO is living up to the accords" if Israel is satisfied, she said. Hauser said the legislation banning US-PLO contacts should be repealed outright as an anachronism and a "crazy charade."

Anes Barghouti, director of the Palestine Affairs Center in Washington, agreed. "What do they know about Arafat in Congress?" he asked. "They want to be more Israeli than the Israelis. What does Shelby want Arafat to comply with? Does he want Arafat not to talk about Jerusalem?" Barghouti had new business cards printed after the Israel-PLO agreement was signed. The overline saying "League of Arab States" was replaced by the more truthful "Palestine Liberation Organization," long known to be his office's sponsor.

But he has the same old map on his wall. It shows all of what was once British Palestine as Palestine. There is no Israel.

(Washington Post)

Iraqi expert: Saddam could share power

LONDON — Saddam Hussein could share his power rather than risk being overthrown, says an Iraqi analyst and author.

"It is a myth to think that Saddam has a fixed ideology and method of government," Saleh Abdel Jabbar, author of *Civil Society and the State of Iraq 1980-92*, says in this week's issue of the London-based newsletter *Middle East Dialogue*.

"It is a pipe dream to think in terms of Saddam Hussein's power structure being on the brink of collapse," Jabbar says. "The Iraqi leader must respond to demands from within the state structure for devolving power in order to stay at the top and, as a shrewd operator, he probably will."

Saddam recently fired his prime minister, Ahmed Hussein Khaydar, sparking speculation about his leadership and the durability of the current power structure.

"If rivalries become dangerous, he will devolve to ensure survival," Jabbar says.

Jabbar adds that people are starving in Iraq now. But "the upper bureaucratic and military class suffered nothing — if anything they have grown wealthier. This has secured support for Saddam at the heart of the security apparatus."

Report: Hizbullah beefs up in Europe

HIZBULLAH, under Iranian guidance, has put men and facilities on alert. It is reorganizing cells in Europe — especially in Germany, France, Switzerland, Italy and Holland — to prepare and execute plans for terrorist attacks against Israeli interests, a Lebanon-Paris daily said last week.

Later reports from Western security services confirmed the story published in *Al-Watan al-Arabi* on June 17 that the foreign operations department of Hizbullah is planning attacks on Israeli and Western institutions in several European countries. The department is headed by Hamad Ma'aniyeh, who lives in Tehran and holds an Iranian passport.

The report said a timetable for the campaign had been drawn up by Iran's external intelligence organization (Ata'at) under the supervision of minister Ali Falahean. *Al-Watan al-Arabi* said it had information that a unit from Hizbullah's foreign operations division had left Beirut for Tehran, under the auspices of the Iranian Embassy in Lebanon, for a meeting with the chief coordinator for "overseas Hizbullah operations."

The unit then left for Germany to join another already sent there, the newspaper said.

The newspaper said Hizbullah cells would link up with Algerian fundamentalists in Germany which, it added, were led by an

Algerian named "H. Djilani" and a fundamentalist Tunisian unit led by an "M. Younes."

Al-Watan al-Arabi said the new campaign would include attempted assassinations of Israeli and American diplomats, suicide operations against their embassies and legations, and the taking of hostages.

Citing a secret report from a Western embassy in Beirut, the newspaper said fundamentalists would attempt to hijack planes carrying diplomats with the assistance of international terrorists such as the Japanese Red Army.

It said Western security sources were reporting that Tehran had sent for the legendary terrorist Carlos — Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, known as The Jackal — "from his place of residence in Finland." He would be asked to coordinate activities in exchange for financial and other help for a European terrorist unit led by an associate, it added.

Algerian premier in France to seek help for his country

PARIS — Algerian Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi is to meet French officials in this week to discuss his country's ailing economy and internal strife.

Sifi will meet President Francois Mitterrand today and Foreign Minister Alain Juppe tomorrow, Foreign Ministry spokesman Richard Duque said.

The Algerian leader will arrive from Brussels, where he is scheduled to meet Belgian Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene and European Commission President Jacques Delors today.

A team of commission officials visited Algiers last week to open exploratory talks with Algerian authorities on a possible partnership agreement with the EU, similar to accords currently being negotiated with Morocco and Tunisia.

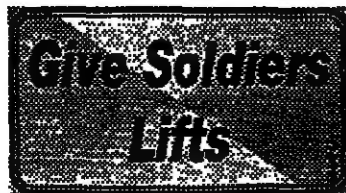
European Union officials say

the EU's 12 members are divided on the usefulness of extensive new aid to Algeria before there is firmer evidence that reforms there are working.

France and the commission are keen to press on with initiatives that will encourage moderate Algerians.

Moderates in Algeria face the risk of destabilization posed by widespread violence and conflict between Islamic militants and the country's rulers.

(Reuters)



Israel and Syria: Peace and Security on the Golan

Aryeh Shalev

Aryeh Shalev's timely and detailed study of Israel's requirements for a peaceful settlement with Syria. It outlines the history of Israeli-Syrian border problems and peace negotiations, and describes the security, topographic, territorial, settlement, demographic, legal and regional problems involved in a settlement. It then offers a formula for interim and final security and peace arrangements with Syria. Study no. 24, published by the Jaffee Center for Studies, Tel Aviv University. Softcover, 228 pp. JP Price NIS 48.00

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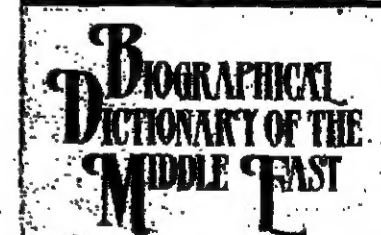
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The coalition maneuver

CYNICS will undoubtedly say Labor's overtures to the Y'ud faction are nothing but a stratagem, a way of pressuring the recalcitrant Shas party into rejoining the government coalition. Indeed, whenever negotiations with Shas reach an impasse, hints of talks with other parties fill the air. But this time the political climate is more conducive to change, and chances are that for the first time since he became prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin may alter the government's composition.

One reason, in part, for the change is that Shas may be truly reluctant to join a government which cannot deliver on its promises to retain the religious status quo. Even if both Labor and Meretz agree to yield to every Shas demand, rulings of the High Court of Justice will render such agreement hollow. Ultimately, Shas may let material considerations take precedence over principles and return to the coalition. But this will probably not diminish Rabin's eagerness to draw a few hawkish Knesset members to his government.

The reason for this eagerness is that Rabin must realize that the rumblings in his own party against the super-dovishness of his policies are a reflection of a general unease. An ardent opinion-poll follower, he is acutely aware of polls showing a majority distrusting his ability to negotiate, and an even larger majority opposed to any further concessions. That a government facing momentous decisions on war or peace must strive for a broad consensus is a given. This is not only to forestall domestic strife, nor just to present a

unified front in the negotiations. A peace agreement achieved against the will of a large part of the population, let alone a majority, has little chance of surviving. That is why a national unity government, for all its drawbacks, would have been better equipped to reach a lasting agreement with the Palestinians.

The addition of the three Y'ud members to the coalition will not give Rabin the kind of breadth he wants and needs. All three are political nonentities elected on Rafael Eitan's coattails, whose Tsomet party they bolted. But if the three insist on their conditions for joining the coalition - maintaining a continuity of Jewish settlements in Judea and Samaria and ensuring their security, preventing the establishment of a Palestinian state and the realization of the Palestinian "right of return," retaining Jerusalem as a united city under Israeli sovereignty, and submitting major decisions on withdrawal to a referendum or elections - and if Rabin accepts these conditions, a clear message will be conveyed to both Israelis and Arabs.

The public reaction to Y'ud's joining the coalition will depend, then, on the way it is perceived. If it appears as nothing but an opportunistic step into a minister's seat by Y'ud leader MK Gonen Segev, it will do little to restore public confidence in the government. But if it is viewed as a move signifying a reassessment of government policies, it will give the Rabin government a much-needed, timely boost.

The bomb, stupid

SEND a well-meaning Western democrat to see a nasty dictator and the chances are his first comment will not be "Oh, what a nasty dictator" but "What a charming man, how well informed, how pragmatic." True, diplomacy has its conventions, but the effusions of former president Jimmy Carter after his meetings with North Korea's Kim Il Sung have strained the credulity of even the most gullible optimists.

Carter informed us that the nasty little Stalinist megalomaniac, otherwise known as the Great Leader and Father of the Dear Leader, is extremely well-informed on world affairs and has an amazing grasp of the scientific intricacies of nuclear engineering. If the world is supposed to gasp in awe and reassess Western policy on the Korean peninsula crisis because it is revealed to be in the hands of this brilliant mind, one can only hope the world is not as gullible as Carter.

Carter's first blunder was to tell Kim on camera at the weekend that the United States would suspend moves towards UN sanctions as a result of the conciliatory noises made by the Great Leader. President Bill Clinton is to be commended for his swift retort that he alone is in charge of US policy and no such concession will be forthcoming without concrete actions from Pyongyang to comply with international law.

What Carter seems to have forgotten is that this crisis is a carefully contrived fabrication by North Korea. The worst critics of the US

and South Korea would not be able to find the slightest excuse to blame them for the dangerous standoff. North Korea was perfectly free to remain outside the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, as many countries have done. But having signed, it took on serious multilateral obligations under international law and was no longer free to pick and choose which provisions it would observe.

Nor, as *The New York Times* has reminded its readers, should we forget that this is still the same Kim Il Sung who bet that a gullible Harry Truman would not enter a "domestic" war when Kim sent his troops across the border in 1950 to start the Korean War. Another 44 years of great leadership by this brilliant mind has given North Korea empty food stores, a trickle of shoddy goods to export, and a mountain of unpaid bills owed to the West, the former Soviet states and the Asians.

Is another Korean war with the possibility of a nuclear exchange what this decrepit state really needs? Maybe Kim thinks, as he did with Truman, that Clinton is a dithering softie who can be blackmailed up to the brink or beyond. But must be made perfectly clear to him that he is making an even more dangerous miscalculation. Unfortunately, rather than boosting his president, Carter seems to have done no more than reinforce Kim's delusions that there is a game to be played. Clinton should tell Carter to stop gasping at Kim's grasp of nuclear technology. It's the bomb, stupid!

OPINION



The Israel experience

PRESIDENT Weizman's conference of Jewish leaders, which begins today, comes at a rare moment of opportunity. The relationship between Israel and the rest of the Jewish world is being redefined.

This week, we could be witnessing the birth of a new Zionism. If it doesn't happen, we will see a new isolationism in which Israel and the diaspora focus on their own internal problems, charting courses that will set them increasingly far apart.

The Jewish world has changed. It is 100 years since Herzl was converted to Zionism and wrote *Der Judenstaat*. Since then, Jews have passed through two of the most epic events of our history: the shattering tragedy of the Holocaust and the birth of the State of Israel. Astonishingly, though, our thinking remains locked in the 1890s. We have not adjusted to change.

Israel meant many things to the early Zionists. Remarkable visions accompanied the movement in its formative years. It was a veritable gallery of conflicting utopias: religious, secular, political and cultural. But one theme dominated. Israel was the place, the only place, where Jews could survive.

One after another of Zionism's most impassioned voices - first Moses Hess, then Leon Pinsker, then Theodor Herzl himself - saw Israel as a refuge against the gathering storm of antisemitism. They were right. They foresaw with nightmarish clarity what eventually exploded into the Shoah. The world was too unsafe for Jews to lack a home.

But the Jewish agenda has moved on. Today Israel is struggling with the peace process and its implications. Diaspora communities are facing an unprecedented crisis of intermarriage and disaffiliation. Both Jewries could now turn inward. The result would be a part-

JONATHAN SACKS

ing of the ways between Israel and the rest of the Jewish world.

A new vision is now needed - and it exists. The problem now facing Jewry in America, Britain and elsewhere is not physical survival, but Jewish continuity. The question most frequently asked is, "Will we have Jewish grandchildren?"

We have a Jewish State. Now we must focus on the state of the Jews both inside and outside it

Israel is a critical part of the answer, not as the place for which we write checks, but as the place to which we send our children to learn what it is to be a Jew.

THE PROBLEM of Jewish identity in the Diaspora is this. For those who do not lead wholly segregated lives, Jewishness is only one component of experience. It is felt at home and in the synagogue, and even then briefly and intermittently. Only in Israel can we speak Hebrew as a living language, enter the landscape of our origins and encounter the Jewish people in its full expression as a sovereign nation. Israel is the most powerful tutorial in Jewish identity today.

For half a century, the Diaspora has seen Israel as a refuge, and has supported it accordingly. From here on, it must see it as Jewry's central educational resource, and the nature of its support must change.

To put it simply: a million dollars spent on a community center in the

Diaspora benefits the Diaspora, not Israel. A million dollars spent on programs in Israel for young Jews from the Diaspora benefits both. For both, it is the best possible investment in the future.

The Diaspora must continue to send funds to Israel. But these must be directed to programs and experiences which have a direct impact on young Jews in the Diaspora. The Israel experience must be at the core of a new Israel-Diaspora partnership.

There will be strong opposition to such a change. Within Israel there are those who believe in negation of the Diaspora. Jewish communities outside Israel are destined for oblivion, they feel. Giving them a new lease on life will merely prolong their demise.

Outside Israel, there are those who believe that the best thing that can happen to the Diaspora is for it to downgrade its links with Israel and concentrate on itself.

These views are mistaken. Young Diaspora Jews who spend significant time in Israel are both more likely to make aliyah or, if they don't, to become active leaders in their own communities. Diaspora Jews whose Jewish identity is weak are less likely to support Israel and more likely to marry out.

If Israel and the Diaspora work together on Jewish continuity, both sides gain. If they do not, both sides lose. But to see this and act on it will take vision and courage.

A profound change must now take place. The early immigrants used the phrase *livnot ulehibanot*, "to build and be built" by the land. For 46 years, the Diaspora has used its funds to build the land. It must now use them to ensure that its children are built by it.

The challenge of survival was to create a Jewish State. The challenge of continuity is to revitalize the state of Jews.

The writer is chief rabbi of the Commonwealth.

Fear of me

MARK S. GOULSTON

I went by O.J. Simpson's house to watch the "tabloid mania." What a zoo. What an intrusion on personal suffering. What a voyeuristic, prurient feeding frenzy.

So why did I do it? Is being a voyeur of the voyeurs any less voyeuristic? I like to see myself as above prurience and in control of my more base instincts. But the truth is that I am drawn to such tabloid scenes, as are so many millions of us, to get some vicarious excitement and for something more important.

Voyeurism helps us cope as much as it excites us. It does this in a two-step fashion. First we make an emotional connection to the event to experience a vicarious catharsis and relief. Then we find a way to disclaim our connection to the experience in order to reassure ourselves that it won't happen to us.

Most of these dramas have horrifying and terrifying components. Most of us have known horror and terror in our own lives and have usually endured it alone. But when we and others are now drawn to the same scene, we all get to feel vulnerability together. And as the aloneness lessens, we feel relieved. In the Simpson case, our identi-

We are mesmerized by the O.J. Simpson case because it helps us cope with the demons inside us

cation is with our own fear of losing control or becoming vulnerable to another who might lose control.

We become frighteningly aware of our potential to explode when the pressures from the outside world, from inside our families and inside our minds, override all of our control mechanisms. The agitation builds and compels us to precipitous action that defies judgment and ignores consequences.

When I've asked most men I know who initiated a divorce, "What was the last straw?" they may mention incompatibility of values, poor communication or even not enough sex. But finally, what it comes down to for many men is feeling the possibility of violence toward someone they were pledged to protect from harm.

WHEN A man feels cornered from all sides and there is no outlet, his choices seem simple: go crazy, kill the offending agents or kill yourself. In the most tragic cases we see all three.

One of the ways we cope with these demons inside us is to be voyeuristically drawn to inhuman acts of humans toward each other. We are able to identify with the victim, the victimizer, the rage and the outrage without it happening to us directly. It's like going to a bloody movie where we are drawn to the violence for cathartic identification and then feel the relief that it was just make-believe.

We also look for some disclaimer to reassure ourselves that we are not the same as the participants. We'll look for alcohol if we are not drinkers, for guns if we don't own one, for a different ethnic background, for divorce if we are married, for marriage if we are divorced or some other explanation to reassure ourselves that we are sufficiently unlike these people to have it happen to us.

But the more someone could be like us, or as in this case, someone we want to be, the less we are able to disclaim our similarity, the more compelling and disturbing it becomes. Because voyeurism fails when we can't distance and reassure ourselves, people resorted to denial, cheering his freeway fight like he was an underdog hero running for the goal line.

Women are immune to this sort of voyeurism, though it is usually directed differently. Many mothers are riveted to stories about child abuse because they know inside how close they feel they are to abusing when a child won't stop crying or nagging or misbehaving.

Women also want to feel that identification and that relief from aloneness when they are struggling with impulses that threaten to overwhelm them. So they eagerly read these tabloid stories to identify, relate, resonate and then find a disclaimer to reassure themselves. "Oh, that mother was poor (or newly immigrant or abused). That's not me. I won't act on it. I'm safe. My children are safe."

In truth, none of us is as in as much danger as we fear, but none of us is as safe as we'd like.

The real answer is in confronting the bad situations in our lives and finding resolution. But for many of us, coping through voyeurism can offer temporary relief through cathartic identification and reassurance that since we're different, it won't happen to us.

The writer, a psychiatrist, is an assistant clinical professor at UCLA. (Los Angeles Times)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE THREAT OF DISBELIEF

Sir, - The radio report of the mass exodus of Israelis leaving Ben-Gurion Airport for Turkey and Cyprus on the eve of the holiday celebrating the giving of the Torah to the Jewish people is symbolic. It is a reflection of how far those who are traveling have distanced themselves from a living and vibrant Judaism. That sad conclusion has far-reaching implications for the existence of a Jewish State in Israel.

In many important respects, the present leadership of our nation has an attitude towards Judaism no different from those departing Israelis. Some of this government's leaders may call themselves "Masorati," which translated into what they actually mean, is that they pick and choose among what they consider "customs," those which their fancy or nostalgia may select.

We are not talking about the

KOWTOWING TO OUR ENEMIES

Sir, - Unlike poor "Frustrated Peter Gabriel" (June 16), many of us old hands here in the Middle East were not in the least surprised by the unreliable and contemptuous attitude shown this pop celebrity by our Egyptian neighbor. Al-though Gabriel, by his own admission, has diligently served the anti-Israel cause by complying with the Arab League's boycott of this country, to them he remains a symbol of western immorality and decadence, an object to be exploited until such time as his usefulness runs out. Once that occurs, he can be discarded and rejected, as has now happened.

As for Israel, it really is about time we showed some pride and gumption. Those entertainers who, like Gabriel, have suc-

need for more religious adherents here. We are talking about self-hating Jews, and the new Hellenists and Canaanites, whose pleasure seeking and barren beliefs have them attack the lovers of this land, the idealism of our religious youth, and the believers in the God of Israel. They are turning everything upside down. The traditional believers are mocked and held up to ridicule. Those who are strangely linked to the revelations of Sinai are deemed fanatics.

Fortunately, the skeptics and disbelievers do not represent a majority of the Jewish people in Israel. However, all of us who care about living in an Israel which has meaningful Jewish content must be eternally vigilant; otherwise this barren minority on the left will lead us to, at best, a Jewish State in name only, without any meaningful content.

MICHAEL MATAR

SNEAKING SUSPICION

Sir, - Among the many American Jews who hope Rabin and Peres are right but fear they are wrong about the PLO, is abhorring the sneaking suspicion that the Labor government has undertaken a diabolical plot, one of enormous wit. Specifically, what if they are thinking: So give them back Gaza and throw in Jericho, and use the opening to build ties to the Moslem world - Morocco, Kuwait, Oman, and the rest? Then, when the PLO screws up - which the world now sees they do - just let them stew, postage stamps, flags and all. So maybe this is an end-run toward the goal of achieving normalization with most of the Moslem world, if not Iran, Iraq, and Sudan, and concomitantly, discrediting and isolating the PLO. And so too with Syria: offer the Golan and call their bluff.

The only way the Israeli government's alliance with the PLO - jihad for Jerusalem and all! - is to be explained in any rational universe leads to the argument from such perverse, but brilliant, cynicism. Of such straws we try to weave our cloak of optimism.

JACOB NEUSNER

St. Petersburg, Florida.

"YENIT"

Sir, - In *Time Out's* article of June 10 on Toviah Feldstuh, you write that *Yenit* is the play based on the story of a woman who disguises herself as a yeshiva student to be with the man she loves. *Yenit* disguises herself in order to continue the Talmud studies she so loves. Streisand made the movie because it is so anti-stereotype. *Yenit* met the man later and, in fact, decided to stay with her studies and give up the man.

TRUDY GEFEN

Kiryat Ono.

Kiryat Haim. SHERI OZ

Handwritten signature in Arabic script.

Women fight uphill battle in bid to become pilots

These young women's passion — to control the sky — is driving them to buck a system bent on keeping them out of the cockpit, Emily Bazelon writes

AYELET Carasso hung pictures of IDF fighter pilots on the walls of her room at the age of 12. As her draft date neared this year, she began petitioning the army to be considered for training as a fighter pilot.

"I'm crazy about flying," said Carasso, a Jerusalem resident who is now 17. "The idea of being in control of the sky thrills me. And I want to contribute as much as I can to my country."

The image of the IAF fighter pilot — who is perceived at home and abroad as embodying strength, grit and expertise — has always been exclusively male. Only one woman, Yael Finkelstein, flew during the 1948 War of Independence, and she flew in combat here. None of the eight women accepted experimentally into a 1979 fighter-pilot course completed it.

Lifting the ban on female pilots has remained controversial because it means opening the door to combat service, the heart of IDF operations. Contrary to popular myth, the IDF has discouraged women from combat positions since its inception. During the War of Independence, women were trained in combat but served only in defensive units, with very few exceptions. Battlefield positions have been officially off-limits to women since the early 1950s.

At present, 3.7 percent of female soldiers serve in field positions and 69 percent in clerical and service positions. (Comparable figures for male soldiers are not available for security reasons.)

Advocates for change argue that IDF policy is based on tradition rather than fact-based logic, and that the time has come to place recruits according to skill and ability rather than gender — a view shared by Brig.-Gen. Yehudit Ben-Atam, head of the Women's Corps.

Careful to present her comments as personal opinion, Ben-Atam points out that research has turned up no evidence that women could not serve effectively in combat positions for which they volunteer.

Yet she also believes the would-be female pilots are fighting an uphill battle. "I don't think the situation now will allow for a significant breakthrough," says Ben-Atam.

In 1985, the IDF was expanding, needed more soldiers and realized that more technical positions were needed, which led to a breakthrough: the army opened all non-assault positions to women, including those that involved supervising men's training for battle.



Ayelet Carasso: I'm crazy about flying. The idea of being in control of the sky thrills me. (Sarit Uziel)

But in the past two years, budget pressures due to large numbers of draftees have led to a cut in women's mandatory service from 22 to 20 months. The surplus of male and female recruits, Ben-Atam believes, makes it unlikely that more positions will open to female soldiers. She adds that the very small number of would-be female pilots, so far only a handful, increases the odds against them.

The young women counter that their ranks will swell as more people become aware of their efforts. They know that numbers could result in eventual victory.

"The army has no problem with taking one woman or a small group and failing them, but if we could get 10 or 12 people together, there would have to be some rate of success," says Ariela Verner, one of the women accepted to the pilot training course in 1979. Verner believes the conditions of her own training course made passing impossible.

"They pushed me out by not giving me

the training I needed," Verner says.

Despite the obstacles of history and policy, the prospective women cadets see as natural their desire to place themselves in the center of the Zionist ideal of strength and self-reliance by donning the pilot's uniform.

"When I was younger, I was sure I could combine my love of flight with my love of Israel by being a pilot in the IDF," says Alice Miller, 21, of Haifa, whose family immigrated here from South Africa when she was six. "I still can't think of any good reason why that's not the case."

Miller has charted her life's course according to her ambition. She holds a private pilot's license from South Africa and has chosen to defer her IDF service until after she receives a degree in aeronautical engineering from Haifa University next winter, all to strengthen her case for acceptance into the pilot-training course.

When the IDF rejected her request in



Dana Rotem: Prepared to do 30 years of reserve duty. (Jeremy Feldman)

February, Miller filed an as-yet-unanswered appeal on the grounds that the army had failed to consider her qualifications. If the army denies the appeal, as expected, lawyers from the Israel Women's Network and the Association of Civil Rights in Israel plan to take Miller's case to the High Court of Justice.

Miller and her fellow pilot hopefuls share certain attitudes, principal among them a long-held passion for flight. All cite support from family and friends, examples of gender equality set at home and a deeply ingrained conviction that they should fight for their principles.

Despite the assumptions of friends and relatives that their flight lust would pass, the desire has only deepened. As did like-minded brothers and male friends, they saved up for flying lessons and came down eager to return to the sky.

The young women say they are not motivated by the potential professional openings for some of the army's elite in government and business. Nor do most of them define themselves as feminists.

"Very much not," says Dana Rotem, 18, of Ra'anana. "I believe women are capable of doing what they want to do, more or less. I think it's important to remember that with rights come obligations."

The young women tie their own demands to obligation, saying that in return for the right to fly they are ready to serve the full seven years, do the many years of reserve duty required of most men and plan pregnancies around army timetables.

The general rule of releasing women from reserve service, they say, should not prevent them from volunteering for

combat roles. Nor do they accept the argument that women cannot fight in wars because they could be taken prisoner and raped. "The possibility of being captured, as awful as it is, is the same for men and women," says Carasso. "It is a choice that everyone must carefully consider."

Some hope for an eventual shift toward making both length of service and choice of positions the same for men and women — a move that most women might well oppose. Even the feminist Israel Women's Network, which will soon hold discussions on how to improve women's IDF experience, has so far refrained from taking a position on the issue.

However, research on gender discrimination in Israeli society shows the consequences of not equalizing army opportunities. Studies have linked fewer opportunities for women in the army to the slim figure — 13 percent — of female-held managerial and administrative positions in the civilian sector.

"Women's advancement has suffered systematically from the army," says MK Naomi Hazan. "The trouble is that there is an ex-army hierarchy that moves into the top echelons of civilian life. Women are totally excluded from it. The impact is most visible in politics and business."

Advocates of change are also concerned about the effect the IDF stance on women has on societal attitudes and values. "Service is the last step in the socialization of our young people," says Galia Golan, a political science professor at the Hebrew University who helped found the Israel Women's Network.

"Currently it winds up reinforcing the stereotypes of women as auxiliary and

subordinate, and men as brave and important."

Golan wants to improve the nature of women's service by increasing the money spent on female soldiers and moving more of them into skills-based field positions, even if this means requiring them to serve longer. She also wants more older women to serve in the reserves in order to redress the dearth of female IDF role models, and herself volunteers as an IDF lecturer on Soviet policy.

Ben-Atam disputes the claim that the IDF is selling its female soldiers short. "Women come out with the very best tools that the army knows how to give them," says Ben-Atam. "They learn the same lessons about the importance of teamwork and responsibility that men do."

She points to the wide range of positions held by women, including supervisory training, intelligence and technical field work as evidence that the army offers ample opportunity for women who push themselves.

Ben-Atam says she wishes more female soldiers would undertake the technical work open to them. "It is true that society sees the combat soldier as the most important," she says, "but Israel is the only country in the world with mandatory service for women, and there is a wide variety of positions open to them."

Carasso, Rotem and Miller have all applied for technical positions in case they do not become pilots. However, technical jobs will not necessarily bring them satisfaction.

"It's quite sad, really," says Miller, shrugging ruefully. "Whatever else the army comes up with for me will be a compromise. My dream is to fly, and I want very much to succeed."

Launching a successful assault on a male bastion

ON a hot summer's day at the Shvita artillery training base in the Negev, a female soldier bends over the computer controls of an artillery piece pointed into the desert.

She issues instructions to the eight male soldiers clustered around her. They set the controls, and she gives the signal. A moment later, the crack of the gun echoes across the firing range and a white plume of smoke rises from the target in the distance.

A few yards away, other women take their groups through the paces of establishing trajectory and accuracy measurements at surrounding control stations.

For nearly a decade, women soldiers have been instructing male trainees at Shvita. The base continues to be one of the few IDF training centers where women are responsible for providing both technical instruction and sunrise

to lights-out supervision of their charges.

Operations revolve around a three-month preparatory course for male soldiers on their way to artillery units. The male and female instructors and commanders go through an intensive three-month course of their own in both specialized technical skills and leadership training.

"Getting this was like giving birth," says Cpl. Galit Steren, 19, fingering the green braid and tassel that loops through the epaulet on her shoulder. "Your day [during the course] starts at 6 a.m. and ends at 11 p.m., and you're always hurrying. In the beginning, you're in shock from the pressure."

The men who complete the course put their training into practice by serving in combat units, but the women's field experience is limited to visiting Golan artillery sites to observe the tasks their

future trainees will later perform.

Instead of combat experience, women receive extra training in areas of technical expertise. "The women contribute a lot because they complement the men's field experience with strong technical training," says Maj. Shimi Luz, deputy commander of Shvita.

Like their male counterparts, female commanders handle the personal needs of their trainees and accompany them throughout the day. They are often subjected to special scrutiny by their units. "In the beginning of the course, the male soldiers have a problem with me," says Lt. Tamar Pertzov, 20, an officer who now oversees the course she formerly instructed. "They assume I won't know enough, because I haven't been in the field."

Pertzov has found that as the course goes on, her trainees come to value her technical skills. But

she can't be a role model. "They want to identify with the men who have been in combat and talk to them about that experience. With us, it's different," she says.

The female commanders opted for the hard work and isolated setting of Shvita for a variety of reasons. Many had friends at the base who encouraged them, or experience in youth movement leadership. Others came from communities in which women serving as field trainers is the norm rather than the exception. All spoke of wanting to learn as much as possible during their time in the army.

After several months at the base, the women say they are satisfied with their choice, and with the work they have done. "Artillery is a very feminist unit," says Pertzov, who plans to study architecture when her service ends. "We see what the army really is. Doing the same work that the men

do and the experience of instructing give you self-confidence. I've found out what I'm capable of."

Pertzov does not see her job at Shvita as out of the ordinary, and laughs about the surprise voiced by people outside the base who learn of her responsibilities. She performs on the same level as her male counterparts, but like most women at Shvita, she does not take her success to mean that women should be allowed to serve in artillery field units.

"I think I could be a really good field officer," says Pertzov, "but I accept that combat is closed to us. The most important thing is what the army needs, and we need to adapt ourselves to fit into that framework. In a sense, it's easier knowing the limits, because then I don't have to feel less capable if I can't do something."

A few of Shvita's female commanders are not convinced. "The

idea of women not fighting is something we accept because we're used to it," says Cpl. Reut Ron, 19. "I think the differences exist, because the army created them."

Whatever implications they draw from their experience, the female instructors and commanders at Shvita have beaten a well-worn path to normalcy.

Why is artillery one of the only branches of the IDF to place women in positions of authority? Luz shrugs and says, "There are other branches of the army where women could be commanders, like the armor and communications corps, but they don't do it. It's a matter of chauvinism."

"I can tell you that here [equal opportunity] works." E.B.



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BUSINESS & FINANCE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 1994

Tadiran wins IDF tender

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

TADIRAN'S communication systems division yesterday announced it has won an IDF tender for more than \$30 million for development and supply of communications systems.

The company said the project strengthens its position as the IDF's leading supplier of communications systems and as one of the leading manufacturers of communications systems worldwide.

Tadiran said the IDF intends to use the systems for battlefield communications.

The company said the winning

of the tender is due to many years of developing equipment for the defense system and foreign customers.

It refused to supply additional information on the system. Tadiran's communications group produces lines of military communications equipment and systems.

Several months ago, the group signed an initial contract to supply its VRC 120 tactical military radio to a unidentified South American country, which is upgrading its tank communication system.

Finance committee okays NIS 750m. in government guarantees for housing

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset finance committee yesterday approved NIS 750 million in government guarantees for residential construction, as part of a Housing Ministry plan to encourage building in the center of the country and thereby lower prices.

The guarantees are meant to enable the banks to extend more credit to contractors without increasing their risk. This in turn will allow contractors to begin more units without putting up additional capital.

The NIS 750m. is meant to cover some 40,000 units, which will

cost some NIS 15 billion to build. Any contractor who starts work between June 1, 1994 and September 30, 1995 will be eligible for the guaranteed loans, on condition that he finishes building within four years of the starting date.

The government's share of the risk on each loan will be 80 percent for the first 5% of the loan, 60% for the next 5%, 40% of the following 5%, 20% for the next 5% and 0% after that. Its total risk, therefore, will not exceed 10% of the loan.

The guarantees were generally

supported by coalition MKs, but some of the opposition members expressed reservations. Ariel Weinstein (Likud) said the entire plan was doomed to failure unless the government permits the free import of foreign workers, since no amount of financing will get construction done on time if there aren't people to do the work.

Weinstein also argued it is unnecessary to provide guarantees for apartments in the center of the

country, since in practice such apartments are snapped up like hotcakes.

In related news, committee chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor) and MK Dan Tichon (Likud) yesterday lashed out at the ministry for providing the committee with only part of the information it had requested, and even that at a very late date.

In particular, the ministry has still not given the committee data on its allocations to public institutions. Ministry director-general Arye Mizrahi promised to provide

this data within a week. Tichon also asked Mizrahi about a press report charging that the ministry had used advertising accounts in a stick-and-carrot fashion - threatening to withdraw ads if a certain article is published, or offering to buy additional ads if it isn't published.

Mizrahi vehemently denied the report, but Gal asked that the ministry give the committee data on its advertising budget - both at the beginning of the year and currently - so that it could look into the matter itself.

Mizrahi restructures credit network

GALIT LIPKIS

UNITED Mizrahi Bank yesterday announced it has restructured its credit network into business and general credit divisions.

Mizrahi credit manager Shmuel Meseberg will be responsible for the two divisions.

Avi Neta, who recently joined Mizrahi, was appointed head of the general credit division, which handles issues related to households, credit cards and credit to special sectors of the population.

The bank's decision to separate the general division was made in the framework of the bank's policy to expand its credit to households, which is considered a good source of income - mainly from customers'

payment of nominal interest rates on debt and commissions.

Mali Baron was appointed to take charge of the bank's business credit division, which handles large customers from a diverse range of economic fields. The division will also operate a small business fund.

Mizrahi is the only local bank with separate divisions for its business and household credit activities.

Bank Hapoalim's and Bank Leumi's credit divisions are divided according to economic sectors.

In other news, Mizrahi announced it is opening a new branch in Hod Hasharon today. It will be managed by Tuvia Shapira.

Committee approves bill permitting class-action suits

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset economics committee yesterday approved a bill permitting either consumer organizations or individual consumers to file class-action suits.

The bill, prepared by the Industry and Trade Ministry, will now be sent to the plenum for its second and third readings.

Currently, the only class-action suits allowed are those by shareholders against their company.

According to the bill, a suit cannot automatically be defined as class-action: the court in which it is filed must approve it as such. The court must also define the group to which the suit applies.

However, the committee vetoed a clause originally included in the bill, which stated that the court could only approve a class-action suit if it thought the suit had a reasonable chance of succeeding.

The main issue which the committee still hasn't resolved is whether the new law should also apply to banks and insurance companies, which are not bound by the Consumer Protection Law.

Although a majority of the committee appears to support such a move, it wants to hear what the banks and insurance companies have to say first. It will therefore



Hanegbi: Backs expansion of bill to include banks and insurance companies. (Joel Fishman)

have another meeting on this issue on July 5, after which the entire bill - with or without this clause - will be brought to the plenum for its final reading.

Committee chairman Tzahi Hanegbi strongly supported expanding the bill in this way.

"If we don't include these two important areas of consumer activity," he said, "we will not have encompassed all the principal areas of the economy, and we will thereby be doing a disservice to the consumers."

However, deputy Industry and Trade Minister Masha Lubelsky warned that including this change might lead to the entire bill being defeated in the plenum.

Electric Corp. invests NIS 30m. in third crane for unloading coal

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Israel Electric Corporation yesterday announced it has invested NIS 30 million for a third crane to unload coal at the Hadera power station.

The new crane, designed by the German Vulkan Kocks and built by Israel Shipyard, can unload 1,500 tons of coal per hour.

The company's two other cranes can unload about 1,200 tons per hour.

The company said the new crane was purchased in preparation for the opening of the Electric Corp.'s second coal plant in Hadera.

More than three million tons of coal are unloaded at Hadera's port each year for the power plant.

The addition of the third crane will increase the quantity unloaded to six million tons of coal annually.

In another development, the Electric Corp.'s tender committee reported that Orlite has won its international tender to supply polyester cabinets.

The cabinets will be used to connect

customers to outside electricity networks.

Orlite, which competed against six local companies in the tender, will supply the cabinets over a two-year period.

The committee said Orlite will supply the crates at a cost approximately 20% lower than the price the company has had to pay until now.

The committee also decided to start negotiations with Elco and Feuchtwanger over the supply of electricity pressure contact breakers and operation systems.

NOTICE TO FOREIGN RESIDENTS IN REGARD TO THE PUBLICATION OF A PROSPECTUS OF LAHAK- COSMOS MUTUAL FUND

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 23 of the Securities Law, 5726-1968, in regard to the publication of an offer to foreign residents of an unlimited number of units of 1 U.S. dollar (hereinafter "dollar") per value each, but not less than 100 units in any single purchase, in participation certificates registered in the name of the holder, at fluctuating unit prices, as more fully described in Chapter 2 of the Prospectus, as follows:

THE FUNDS OFFERED

Offer at a reduced Price
Commencing from June 28, 1994 at 8:30 a.m. and up to September 30, 1994 at 2:00 p.m., the units are offered in consideration for payment of the base price, as shall be fixed, plus an increment at a rate of 0.25%.

Regular Offer
Commencing from September 30, 1994 at 2:00 p.m. and up to June 20, 1995 at 2:00 p.m., the units are offered in consideration for payment of their base price, as shall be fixed, plus an increment at a rate of 1% or less, as specified in the Prospectus.

The unit prices and redemption prices of the Fund's units will be quoted in U.S. dollars.

Investment Policy
Pursuant to the trust agreement and according to the present policy under the Prospectus, and subject to any law, the Fund will invest its assets as follows:

Up to 75% of its total assets in securities of any type traded abroad, provided that at least 40% of its total assets will be invested in bonds of any type and in convertible securities traded abroad.

The Fund's remaining investments will be in the discretion of the Fund Manager.

The Fund may, subject to the provisions of the Currency Control Permit 6738-1978, maintain a foreign currency deposit (Pamach) in the name of the Fund, for purposes of holding transit balances created in the course of the Fund's activities, in any percentage which does not exceed the percentage permitted by law - presently 45% - of the Fund's total assets, provided that the proportion of cash in foreign currency, together with the foreign certificates which the Fund Manager is entitled to purchase, shall not exceed 90% of the Fund's total assets (see Chapter 3 of the Prospectus).

The Fund will invest in Israeli securities traded on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

The Fund may invest up to 10% of its total assets in options. In regard to options and the risk factors attendant on the investment therein see pages 22-23 of the Prospectus.

In regard to any change in the aforesaid investment policy, the Fund Manager will file an immediate report and will publish a notice, seven days in advance, in at least 2 daily newspapers circulating in Israel, of which one will be in Hebrew and one in English.

The Fund is an unrestricted fund (see Chapter 6 of the Prospectus).

Validity of Permit from the Controller of Foreign Currency (see Paragraph 3.3 of the Prospectus and Appendix A to the Prospectus)

The establishment of the Fund and the offer to foreign residents is in accordance with a special permit from the Controller of Foreign Currency, the validity of which runs until December 31, 1995. The Fund Manager will act to have the validity of the special permit extended.

Remuneration of Fund Manager and Trustees

Pursuant to the trust agreement, the Fund manager is entitled to receive an annual remuneration at a rate of 5% of the average annual value of the total assets of the Fund and the Trustee is entitled to receive an annual remuneration at a rate of 0.5% of the average annual value of the total assets of the Fund.

Until otherwise decided by the Fund manager (with the consent of the Trustee), the Fund Manager's remuneration has been fixed at a rate of 1% and the remuneration of the Trustee has been fixed at a rate of 0.1%.

The Hebrew version of this Prospectus is the binding one. An English translation is distributed to the public together with this Prospectus. The translator of the Prospectus has certified that the translation into English faithfully and accurately reflects the contents of the Hebrew version (the certificate is attached to the front of the English translation).

This Prospectus is a first prospectus for the offer of the Fund's units.

Copies of the Prospectus and of the permit from the Securities Authority for the publication thereof have been lodged with the Registrar of Companies. Copies of the Prospectus are obtainable from all branches of the American-Israeli Bank and from members of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

Applications for the order of units can be lodged with the above-mentioned parties.

This notice does not constitute an offer for the purchase of units of the Fund.

Trustee: Israel Discount Bank Trust Company Ltd.

Fund manager: Lahak - Mutual Management of American-Israeli Ltd.

June 21, 1994

LAHAK MUTUAL FUNDS MANAGEMENT OF AMERICAN ISRAEL LTD.

Reading between the lines... you have time for trading action until 11 PM.



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LAHAK

WORLD BRIEFS

US April trade gap widens as exports slump: The US deficit on trade in goods and services widened a sharp 22 percent in April to \$8.40 billion as exports weakened, the Commerce Department said yesterday. Sales to foreign markets dropped 3.3% to \$56.18 billion while imports fell only a slight 0.6% to \$64.58 billion, producing a deficit well in excess of Wall Street economists' expectations of a \$7.5b. shortfall.

The department revised its previous estimate of the March trade gap to a smaller \$6.87b. from the \$7.46b. deficit it originally reported. It also introduced revisions for the entire 1993 year, showing the overall trade deficit was \$75.73b. instead of \$76.76b.

Reuter

George Michael loses bid to break from Sony: Pop star George Michael lost his battle to escape from his recording contract with Sony when a British court threw out his claims yesterday against the company. Judge Jonathan Parker ruled in the High Court that the 30-year-old singer's 1988 contract with Sony was not a restraint of trade, unfairly weighted against him and ultimately unenforceable. Michael had brought the action last October claiming unfair restraint of trade by Sony, his record label.

Reuter

German money supply growth slowed: The Bundesbank said the annualized rate of M3 money supply growth slowed slightly in May from April, but that the expansion of the money supply was still affected by special factors.

Reuter

Japan's economy barely grew: Japan's giant economy barely grew at all in the business year to March 31, but new data gave fresh impetus to hopes a modest recovery may be at hand, economists said. Gross domestic product edged up a bare 0.03 percent in 1993/94 after a revised 0.4% rise in 1992/93, the Economic Planning Agency said.

Reuter

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (22.6.94)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	3.750	4.125	4.750
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.500	3.875	4.500
German mark (DM 200,000)	3.500	4.000	4.250
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	3.250	3.375	3.625
Yen (10 million yen)	0.500	0.625	1.000

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (21.6.94)

Currency	Buy	Sell	Banknotes	Rep.
U.S. dollar	3.320	3.380	2.50	3.350
U.S. dollar	3.020	3.075	1.50	3.050
German mark	1.828	1.815	1.50	1.804
Pound sterling	4.528	4.720	4.57	4.688
French franc	0.541	0.519	0.54	0.527
Japanese yen (100)	2.574	3.023	2.93	2.873
Dutch florin	1.650	1.712	1.66	1.685
Swiss franc	2.242	2.276	2.20	2.251
Swedish krona	0.334	0.380	0.28	0.261
Norwegian krona	0.438	0.410	0.43	0.398
Denish krona	0.4618	0.488	0.46	0.430
Finnish mark	0.5076	0.578	0.47	0.481
Canadian dollar	2.123	2.214	2.15	2.076
Australian dollar	2.242	2.274	2.18	2.182
S. African rand	0.528	0.589	0.53	0.538
Belgian franc (10)	0.9190	0.9319	0.90	0.896
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8977	2.726	2.85	2.777
Italian lira (1000)	1.8188	1.9459	1.88	1.830
Jordanian dinar	—	—	4.28	4.342
Irish pound	3.8188	3.860	0.87	0.882
Irish punt	4.5785	4.6410	4.47	4.547
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2762	2.308	2.22	2.292

* These rates vary according to bank. Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUNG

Key Representative Rates	
US dollar	NIS 3.0500 - 0.07%
Sterling	NIS 4.8889 + 0.27%
Mark	NIS 1.9044 + 0.54%

NEW STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

Index	Value	Change
DJ Industrial	2712.84	+0.35
DJ 30	2712.84	+0.35
NYSE Composite	2712.84	+0.35
NYSE 100	2712.84	+0.35
NYSE 200	2712.84	+0.35
NYSE 300	2712.84	+0.35
NYSE 400	2712.84	+0.35
NYSE 500	2712.84	+0.35
NYSE 600	2712.84	+0.35
NYSE 700	2712.84	+0.35
NYSE 800	2712.84	+0.35
NYSE 900	2712.84	+0.35
NYSE 1000	2712.84	+0.35

Other stock market indexes

Index	Value	Change
FTSE 100	2712.84	+0.35
FTSE 200	2712.84	+0.35
FTSE 300	2712.84	+0.35
FTSE 400	2712.84	+0.35
FTSE 500	2712.84	+0.35
FTSE 600	2712.84	+0.35
FTSE 700	2712.84	+0.35
FTSE 800	2712.84	+0.35
FTSE 900	2712.84	+0.35
FTSE 1000	2712.84	+0.35

Israeli stocks in NY

Stock	Price	Change
Bank Leumi	11.25	+0.10
Bank Hapoalim	10.50	+0.05
Bank Mizrahi	9.75	+0.05
Bank Leumi	11.25	+0.10
Bank Hapoalim	10.50	+0.05
Bank Mizrahi	9.75	+0.05
Bank Leumi	11.25	+0.10
Bank Hapoalim	10.50	+0.05
Bank Mizrahi	9.75	+0.05

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FTSE 500	2712.84	+0.35
FTSE 600	2712.84	+0.35
FTSE 700	2712.84	+0.35
FTSE 800	2712.84	+0.35
FTSE 900	2712.84	+0.35
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TEL AVIV STOCKS

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Market continues decline on low turnover

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

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FTSE Index closes another nervous session lower

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - Equities

finished another nervous session

lower, unsettled by a weak FTSE

futures contract. But trading vol-

umes remained light, indicating in-

stitutions are still reluctant to sell.

At the official close the FTSE

Index was down 30.9 points at

2,940.2.

FRANKFURT - German share

McNeil ousts Graf

Anna makes smashing Wimbledon debut

ORI LEWIS and agencies

WIMBLEDON — Overcoming high winds and rain delays yesterday, Lori McNeil upset five-time champion and world No. 1 Steffi Graf in the first round of Wimbledon — the first time a reigning titlist exited so quickly.

McNeil, long considered a dangerous grass-court player who never fulfilled her potential, played cleverly and courageously in difficult conditions on Centre Court, serving well despite the gusts and hitting away from Graf's forehand to win 7-5, 7-6(7-5).

"It doesn't hurt to lose my crown — it hurts to lose," Graf said.

In other first-round action, Anna Smashnova opened the Israeli challenge with a hard-fought victory over Russia's Eugenia Maniokova, saving two match points on her way to a 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 win. The match was a struggle all the way for the 17-year-old as both she and her opponent, nine years her senior, battled away from the baseline under threatening skies.

The match between Amos Mansdorf and Spain's Thomas Carbonell was postponed due to inclement weather.

Smashnova should have had the match all wrapped up within 90 minutes. Just when the outcome looked to be a foregone conclusion with the Israeli leading 6-4 and 3-0, Smashnova lost concentration and Maniokova recovered to level the match.

With the Russian leading 5-2 in the third set with two match points on her serve, once again it seemed all over, this time for Smashnova. But Israel's No. 1 bounced back with service breaks, some delightful passing shots and renewed concentration to wrap up the match in 2½ hours.

Her next opponent is Larissa Neiland of Latvia.

Graf, seeking her fourth straight title here, had not lost in the first round of any tournament since the Virginia Slims championship in 1992. Her opponent then was McNeil.

That was the 30-year-old American's first and only victory in nine career meetings with Graf until yesterday.

Graf was seemingly more troubled by the wind — especially on her service toss. In the tiebreaker, she saved two match points before McNeil — charging the net right to



RISE TO THE OCCASION — Anna Smashnova serves one up to Eugenia Maniokova. (Reuters)

the end — put a forehand volley out of Graf's reach.

Not since 1985, when she had just turned 16, had Graf lost more than four games in her first-round match at Wimbledon. She won the title in 1988 and 1989, and again each of the past three years.

McNeil, although winner of four grass court titles, had never done well in 10 previous Wimbledon. Her best showing was a quarterfinal loss in 1986 to Hana Mandlikova.

She will now be considered one of the contenders in a wide-open race for the women's title. Graf's ouster also boosts the chances of 37-year-old Martina Navratilova to win a 10th crown in what she says will be her last Wimbledon.

The new favorite is No. 2 seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario who routed Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria, 6-1, 6-2.

In late Monday-night play, nine-time champion Navratilova was moved by a sustained standing

ovation as she started her 22nd and final Wimbledon.

"I was excited, and then the applause just kept going, and it was 'Wait, I haven't played yet. How am I supposed to play now?'" said Navratilova, 37, after beating 6-2, 6-3, "It was pretty special."

FOXBORO (Reuters) — Gabriel Batistuta scored a hat-trick and Diego Maradona added a brilliant third as Argentina put behind them their mean 1990 performances with a purposeful 4-0 World Cup victory over Greece yesterday.

In Argentina's first attack in the second minute of the Group D game, Diego Simeone advanced down the right and fed Batistuta, who shook off his marker Yannis Kalitzakis and rifled a low shot into the far side of the net under the arm of diving goalkeeper Antonis Minou.

In the dying minutes of the first half, Batistuta dealt World Cup new boys Greece another psychological blow with a brilliant goal, his 22 in 33 internationals, from the edge of the penalty area following a penetrating run down the left by defender Jose Chamot.

Maradona struck his 33rd for Argentina on the hour with a deft, curling shot from the edge of the box.

Netherlands 2, Saudi Arabia 1
An 87th-minute goal from substitute Gaston Taument secured the Netherlands to a face-saving but narrow victory in their opening Group F clash on Monday in Washington, DC.

The Saudis, making their World Cup debut, gave an unexpectedly high-quality demonstration of their talents and took the game to the Dutch for long periods after snatching an early lead.

Midfielder Foad Anwar Amin was the scorer of their opening goal with a header from a free-kick by Abdullah al-Dossari, but the Dutch, although shocked, did not cave in and they fought back with a tremendous second half performance.

Midfielder Wim Jonk grabbed the equalizer with a perfectly struck 20-



THE ANGEL GABRIEL — Argentina's Diego Maradona (l) embraces teammate Gabriel Batistuta after the first of his three goals against the Greeks. (AP)

meter drive after 50 minutes and Taument, who came on as a 58th-minute replacement for Marc Overmars, struck the winner with only three minutes remaining.

The goal came when a deep cross from the left eluded the Saudi defense

and their goalkeeper Mohammad al-Deayea as he rushed out, leaving the Feyenoord winger with an unguarded goal into which to direct his header.

It was just about a merited result for the Dutch on a night when they were clearly taken by surprise by the force

and skill of the Saudi team. They played deep and filled midfield, but they produced many fluent moves and counter-attacks swiftly.

The Saudis had three booked and the Dutch two, a fair reflection of the play since the Saudis seemed to be as adept at the unruly side of the game as they were at the skill and technical aspects.

The Netherlands, runners-up in the World Cup finals of 1974 and 1978 and appearing in their sixth finals tournament, were never comfortable and needed their unquenchable spirit to emerge triumphant to the delight of their orange army of drum-beating supporters.

For them, it was fortunate that Monday evening followed the coolest day in Washington for more than a week with the temperature falling to 81°F (27°C) by the end of the game.

Brazil 2, Russia 0
Also on Monday, Romario scored one goal and played a vital part in another to earn Brazil a deserved win in a Group B match in Palo Alto.

The Barcelona striker stabbed home a corner from close range in the 27th minute and was felled after a darting run on goal to earn a penalty converted by captain Rai in the 53rd minute.

Spurred on by thousands of drum-beating fans in brilliant sunshine, Brazil never quite moved into top gear. But their skills were more than a match for a physical Russian team weakened by a players' rebellion before the tournament.

World Cup at a Glance

(all times Israel)

Monday's results:

D — Argentina 4, Greece 0 (Foxboro)

Monday's results:

F — Netherlands 2, Saudi Arabia 1

Least night's scheduled games:

C — Germany-Spain (Chicago)

D — Nigeria-Bulgaria (Dallas)

Tonight/tomorrow:

A — Romania-Switzerland 23:00 (Portland)

A — US-Colombia 02:00 (Pasadena)

Major League line scores

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Cleveland	211 001 020 - 7-5
Detroit	010 000 000 - 1-5
New York Yankees 5, Boston Red Sox 3	
Chicago White Sox 5, Minnesota Twins 3	
Seattle Mariners 5, Los Angeles Angels 3	
Texas Rangers 5, Houston Astros 3	
Toronto Blue Jays 5, Baltimore Orioles 3	
Oakland Athletics 5, Kansas City Royals 3	
Milwaukee Brewers 5, St. Louis Cardinals 3	
Pittsburgh Pirates 5, Cincinnati Reds 3	
San Diego Padres 5, San Francisco Giants 3	
Los Angeles Dodgers 5, Florida Marlins 3	
Atlanta Braves 5, Philadelphia Phillies 3	
New York Mets 5, Montreal Expos 3	
Washington Nationals 5, Cleveland Indians 3	
Chicago Cubs 5, St. Louis Cardinals 3	
Pittsburgh Pirates 5, Cincinnati Reds 3	
San Diego Padres 5, San Francisco Giants 3	
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Labor threatens cancellation of Histadrut convention

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

A NEW crisis erupted between the Labor Party and Ram yesterday, when Labor threatened to cancel the Histadrut convention if Ram continued to blacklist outgoing Secretary-General Haim Haberfeld.

In the morning the negotiations appeared to be going well between the two factions. MK Ran Cohen, of Ram, head of the convention's preparatory committee, and Haberfeld agreed to hold the convention on July 5. In addition, Haberfeld and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin scheduled a meeting for this afternoon to coordinate Labor's positions in the coalition talks with Ram.

But then Ram leader MK Haim Ramon announced that no negotiations would be held with Labor as long as Haberfeld is a member of the negotiating team. Ramon advised Tourism Minister Uzi Baram, head of Labor's negotiating team, that Ram views Haberfeld as the main obstacle to making in the talks, and would not resume talks until he was removed from the team.

Acting Secretary-General Meir Gatt said in response that if Ram continues to disqualify Haberfeld, then "there will be no convention on July 5."

Sources in Labor's Histadrut faction said yesterday that "it was obvious that Ramon wanted all along to form a coalition with the Likud and not with Labor. He hoped all the time that Ram and Labor would not reach an agreement about anything."

"But now that an understanding has been reached about the convention and Rabin has taken over the negotiations with Ram, Ra-

mon is scared that an agreement will be reached, and he had to blow it all up somehow. So he announced his ultimatum to disqualify Haberfeld."

Earlier yesterday, Rabin conveyed a message to Ram leaders to the effect that Labor would not accept any personal disqualification by Ram in the coalition negotiations. Rabin's message, which followed Ramon's threats to dismiss Haberfeld and his supporters, was intended to stop the personal attacks on Haberfeld and Labor's Histadrut faction members and pave the way for the resumption of the talks.

Rabin and Haberfeld are due to hold a reconciliation meeting this afternoon - their first talk since the Histadrut elections - at the Prime Minister's Office, where they are also expected to discuss Ramon's threats of political dismissals in the Histadrut leadership. The meeting was arranged by Labor Secretary-General Nissim Zivli, whose first attempt to bring the two together failed.

Meanwhile, a controversy has erupted in Ram concerning the possibility of opening coalition negotiations with the Likud. Ramon and his maverick faction, Labor MKs Amir Peretz and Shmuel Avitan, are pushing for this move, while Meretz leaders - Minister Yossi Sarid and MKs Haim Oron and Ran Cohen object to approaching the Likud as long as there is a chance of forming a coalition with Labor. Ram will reach a decision on opening talks with the Likud after the Histadrut's executive committee meets tomorrow to vote on the convention date.

Dentist acquitted of raping patient

RAINE MARCUS

A TEL AVIV dentist charged with sexually assaulting a 17-year-old female patient was acquitted by Tel Aviv Magistrates Court Judge Yitzhak Braz yesterday, more than two years after he was charged.

The man, whose name was banned from publication, was indicted for assaulting the girl while she was undergoing treatment. Her twin sister who was sitting in the waiting room also told police that the dentist had "touched the complainant's leg, put his hand inside her trousers several times and then put his hand inside his own trouser pocket."

After treatment, the accused rubbed up against the girl, and then put his hand inside her trou-

sers again, according to the indictment.

The girls told their mother of the alleged incident, and filed a complaint with police.

The sisters had said that the dentist's assistant had not been present at the treatment, but lawyer Dan Qual proved that on the date in question, the assistant had been working in the office.

Qual accused the sisters of lying throughout the trial, and said the press exposure his client had received had done him untold harm.

In acquitting the dentist, Braz said he did not believe the testimony of the sisters or their mother, but found the dentist and his assistant to be telling the truth.

Jerusalem brush fire injures 12 people

BILL HUTMAN

A BRUSH fire in Jerusalem yesterday, possibly started by arsonists, left 12 persons injured and forced dozens to flee their homes. "You couldn't see anything. Smoke had totally enveloped the street," said rescue worker Yoel Klopsholtz, among the first on the scene in the Romema neighborhood.

Several persons jumped from their second floor balconies in the panic that ensued as the fire and smoke engulfed their homes, witnesses said.

Magen David Adom received a call at 4:41 p.m. reporting the fire. Four ambulances evacuated 11 people, including four infants and several elderly people, suffering from smoke inhalation, said Avraham Halberberg, Jerusalem's Magen David Adom director.

The injured were all apparently in good condition. A spokesman for Hadassah-University Hospitals, however, cautioned that it often takes 24 hours to determine the extent of injuries from smoke inhalation.

"The fire was started in at least two places in the small forest by the neighborhood, and then spread quickly in the direction of the buildings because of the strong winds," said Jerusalem fire chief Rami Yaffe.

"Arsonists may have started the fire, or maybe kids playing in the forest," Yaffe said. "One thing is sure, this fire did not start from natural causes," he added.

About a dozen apartments along Ma'aneh Simha Road were evacuated. Four apartments were seriously damaged by the fire, which took some 35 firefighters over 90 minutes to bring under control.

"I saw the fire down in the forest and ran to call the fire department," said 21-year-old yeshiva student Yosef Hillel. "By the time I came back, the fire had already swept up near the apartments," he said.

Most of the residents fled on their own as the smoke began to engulf their homes. At least one elderly couple, however, had to be evacuated by firefighters.

Rescue workers went from apartment to apartment to ensure no one was left inside. Police, meanwhile, had to keep back the large crowd of onlookers.



Two Civil Guard volunteers report for duty in Ramat Aviv at a new station established by the Tel Aviv-Jaffa Municipality.

Ben-Porat urged to investigate agricultural land rezoning plans

EVELYN GORDON

STATE Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat should investigate whether the government is using plans to rezone agricultural land in the center of the country for residential construction to give an under-the-table handout to kibbutzim and moshavim, two members of the Knesset state control committee demanded yesterday.

The committee will decide on the proposal at a later date.

The rezoning is aimed at lowering building prices in the center of the country. However, explained MKs Sylvan Shalom and Dan Tichon (Likud), by rezoning the land, the government also increases its value enormously. Since much of this land has been leased to kibbutzim and moshavim, the question is who should benefit from the billions of shekels in added value the rezoning

will create.

Shalom charged that since the kibbutzim don't own the land - and were in fact given it only for agricultural purposes - they should not be the main beneficiaries of the rezoning. While they are obviously entitled to some compensation, he said, it should be in keeping with their actual loss.

He suggested that any decisions regarding compensation be approved by either the plenum, in the form of a law, or by the finance committee.

Tichon noted that in her recent report, Ben-Porat had sharply criticized the way the government has handled the rezoning issue so far. Until now, however, none of the flaws she pointed out have been corrected, he charged.

Ben-Porat particularly blasted the Israel Lands Administration's tendency to let the current lessees decide which of two options to exercise when their land is rezoned, rather than the ILA deciding itself on the basis of national priorities. These options include returning the land to the ILA, in exchange for 25% of its value after rezoning, or keeping the land and using it for the new purpose, and paying the ILA 51% of its value after rezoning.

MK Haim Oron (Meretz) lambasted Shalom and Tichon for what he termed an unfair attack on the kibbutzim. Only two of the 13 deals approved as a result of ILA decision 611 - one of those the comptroller had criticized - involved kibbutzim, he noted.

He suggested that the kibbutzim should be given at least part of the money created by the rezoning, but that this money should be earmarked for paying off their debts.

Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tsur said he had made a similar proposal to the Fogel Committee, which is currently formulating policy on this issue. Anything else would be ridiculous, he said, since it is hardly the kibbutzim's fault that Israel is the only country in the world that does not permit farmers to own their own land.

Tsur said his ministry's other proposals included canceling all the deals made in the wake of decision 611, and limiting, by law, the amount of land that can be rezoned. Unrestrained rezoning, he warned, would destroy agriculture.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mar-Haim appointment approved

The appointment of Amos Mar-Haim as chairman of the Postal Authority was approved by the government this week. Mar-Haim, a former deputy mayor of Jerusalem under Teddy Koller and director-general of the Industry and Trade Ministry, was nominated by Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni.

Police arrest suspect in robberies of elderly

Police yesterday arrested a Givatayim man they suspect posed as an NII worker and robbed some 30 elderly people. For the past three months, the man has allegedly been arriving at elderly residents' homes, claiming he has come to collect information for the NII, and then steals money found in the house. The man is to be remanded in Tel Aviv Magistrates Court today. *lim*

50 pedestrian bridges to be built

Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar approved a plan yesterday for the construction of 50 pedestrian bridges around the country. The cost of building the bridges will be financed by a private investor who will have the right to sell advertising space on them. The pedestrian bridges will be constructed in the country's major cities and towns at high-risk areas and near schools. *lim*

Israel, India sign scientific agreement

An agreement for scientific cooperation was signed yesterday by the Israel Academy of Sciences and the government of India's committee for planning and budgeting. The accord will expand scientific relations between the two countries, which have had diplomatic relations for only a short time.

Observant can watch Wexford

Following requests by religious viewers, Channel One has announced it will rerun the last episode of the Ruth Rendell suspense series early Sunday morning as well as Friday night. Religious viewers who do not watch television Friday night flooded ITV's switchboard with complaints that they would not be able to see the final episode of the series which started Monday this week.

In response, Channel One decided to run the episode both Friday (9:55 p.m.) and Sunday morning at 12:15 a.m.

Kupat Holim still waiting for emergency funds

DAN IZENBERG

KUPAT Holim Clalit has not yet received the NIS 400 million approved by the government and the Knesset finance committee, its director-general Avigdor Kaplan said yesterday.

"So far we have not received the NIS 400 million promised us in the emergency program and we are in dire straits as August 1 approaches," Kaplan told the labor and social affairs committee.

Treasury representative Boaz Bar-Nir said the money would be transferred "in a day or two and there will not be any problem about that."

The government and the finance committee agreed to give the fund a NIS 400 million loan to tide it over until the transfer of power in the Histadrut from Labor to the Ram list. The funding was meant to cover the health fund's needs until July 15.

The committee held a wide-ranging discussion on the state of the Histadrut-owned health fund which appears to be heading for a NIS 1.5 billion budget deficit in 1994.

Kaplan said that further delay in transferring the government loan

threatened the existence of the health fund. The most immediate problem was that the fund would not be able to order more supplies after the emergency program expires on July 15. "If we don't order more medicine now, we will face a serious crisis in the [coming] months."

Kaplan and Prof. Dan Michaeli, head of the health fund's board of directors, blamed the deficit on huge salary hikes. Michaeli said he had sent 30 warning letters to ministers and Histadrut officials during the negotiations with doctors and nurses leading to the signing of a new wage agreement granting them 40 percent pay raises.

Merom decided to postpone the hearings until he receives a fixed list of MKs who will participate in the coming discussions of the 15-member committee. He hoped to hold the vote next Wednesday, he said.

Vanunu opposed the decision to call off the discussion. "I've been involved in this thing for 10 months, already," he said. "The last thing I thought would happen is that the talks would be stopped and that everything would start from scratch. That will only prolong my suffering at the hands of the law."

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